IDW

ONE SHOT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

Paramount Pictures

ORIGINAL FILM

THE OFFICIAL MOVIE PRE-QUILL

SEGA®

SONIC 2 THE HEDGEHOG
THE OFFICIAL MOVIE PRE-QUILL

HEDGEHOG DAY AFTERNOON
STORY
KIEL PHEGLEY
ART
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM
LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

THE SECRET OF MY DISTRESS
STORY
KIEL PHEGLEY
ART
TRACY YARDLEY
COLORS
LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO
LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ALWAYS BET ON RED
STORY
KIEL PHEGLEY
ART
EVAN STANLEY
COLORS
HEATHER BRECKEL
LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

TWO FOR THE ROAD
STORY
KIEL PHEGLEY
ART
EVAN STANLEY
COLORS
HEATHER BRECKEL
LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

MUSHROOM WITH A VIEW
STORY
KIEL PHEGLEY
ART
TRACY YARDLEY
COLORS
LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO
LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

COVER
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

EDITORS
RILEY FARMER
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SONIC FILM UNIVERSE
CREATIVE CONSULTANT
TOBY ASCHER

Paramount Pictures
ORIGINAL FILM

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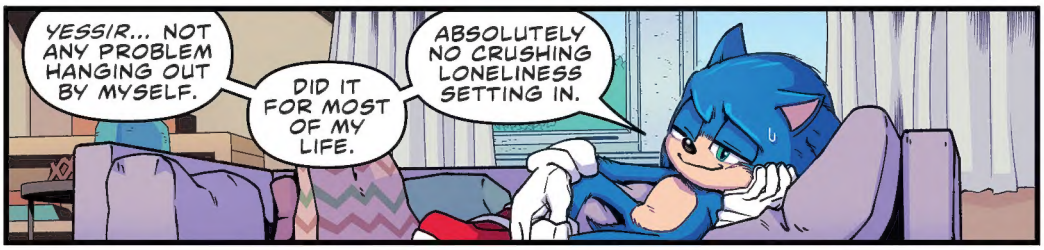
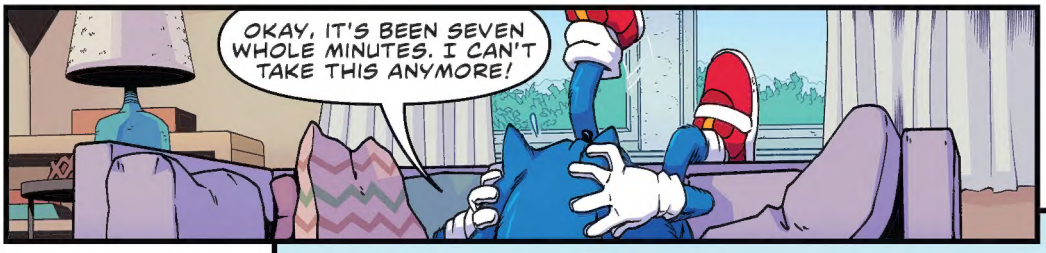
COULD THIS BE THE END FOR OUR INTREPID HEDGEHOG HERO?
WILL HIS CRUSADE AGAINST CRIME GET LOCKED AWAY IN THE VAULT OF DESPAIR?
CAN ANYONE OUT THERE HEAR HIM AS HE CRIES...
...WAS THE WORLD NOT READY TO MEET THE SPINY SENTINEL?!
HEDGEHOG DAY AFTERNOON

12 HOURS EARLIER. GREEN HILLS, MONTANA.
BYE, SONIC! I HAVE TO GET TO THE CLINIC. PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY OUT OF TROUBLE UNTIL TOM AND WADE GET BACK FROM THEIR TRIP.

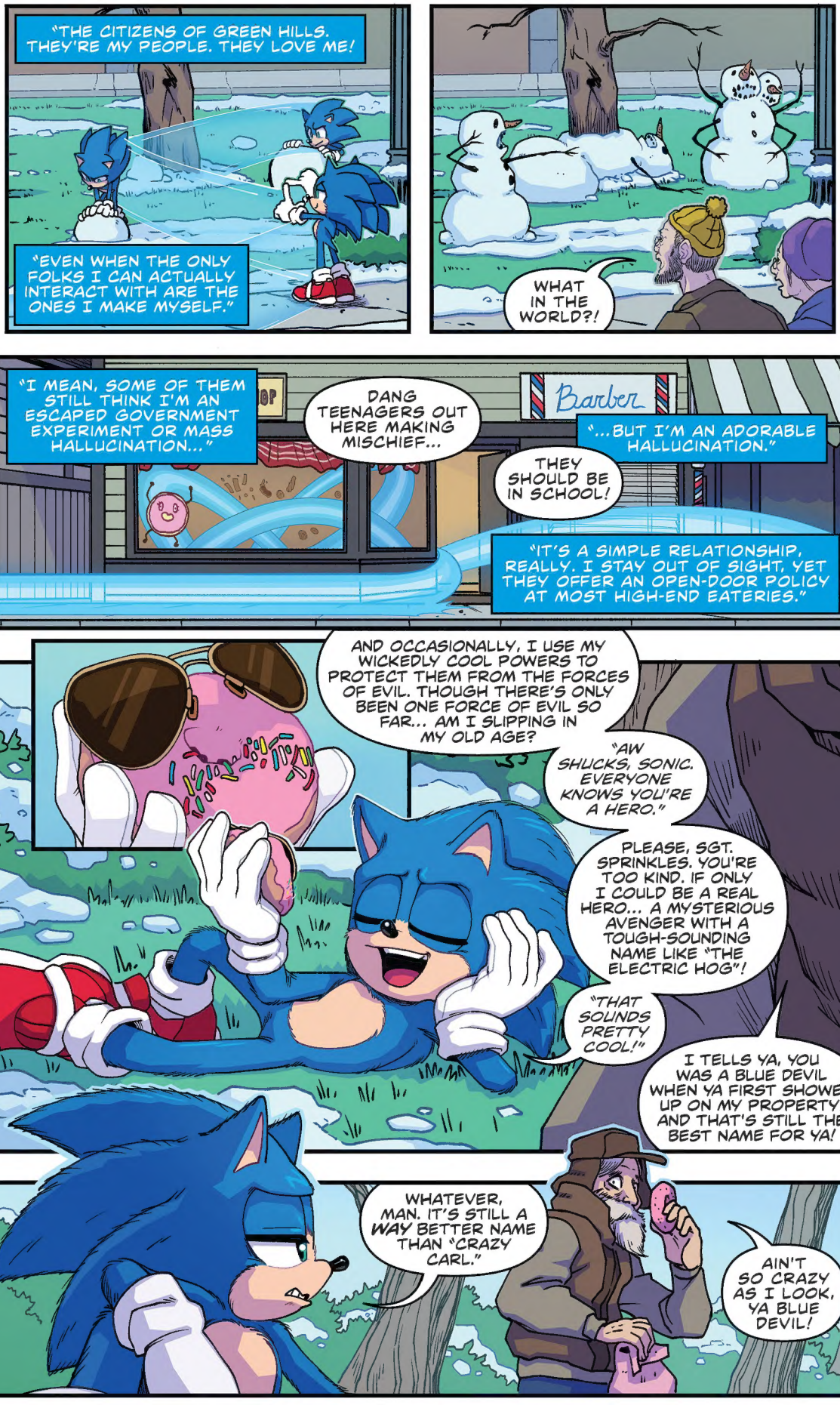
OH, SURE, MADDIE. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
JUST GONNA GET IN A LITTLE ME TIME.

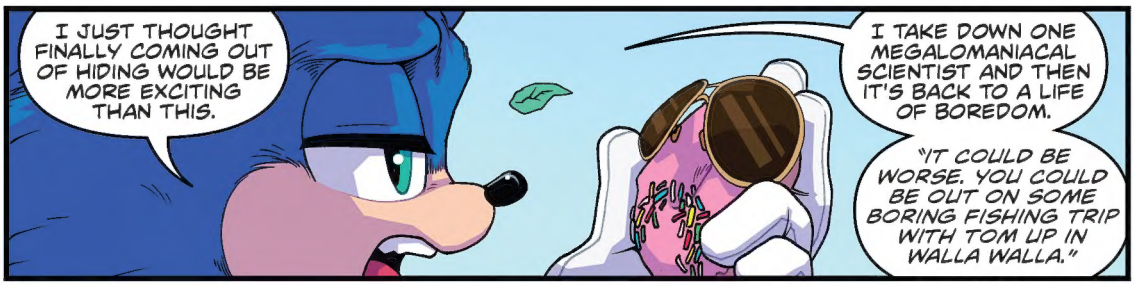

YESSIR... NOT ANY PROBLEM HANGING OUT BY MYSELF.
DID IT FOR MOST OF MY LIFE.
ABSOLUTELY NO CRUSHING LONELINESS SETTING IN.


OKAY, IT'S BEEN SEVEN WHOLE MINUTES. I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

A LITTLE LIGHTSPEED SOCIALIZATION NEVER HURT ANYBODY. I DID IT FOR YEARS BEFORE THESE GUYS FOUND ME OUT, RIGHT?
HRMM?
SHHHH! DON'T TELL ANYONE, OZZY, OR IT'S NO MORE TABLE SCRAPS FROM ME.

"TIME TO CHECK IN WITH MY ADORING PUBLIC!"
Welcome to
GREEN HI
The Little Tow
with a Big Heart
POP 1981 ♦ ELEV. 3445 FT

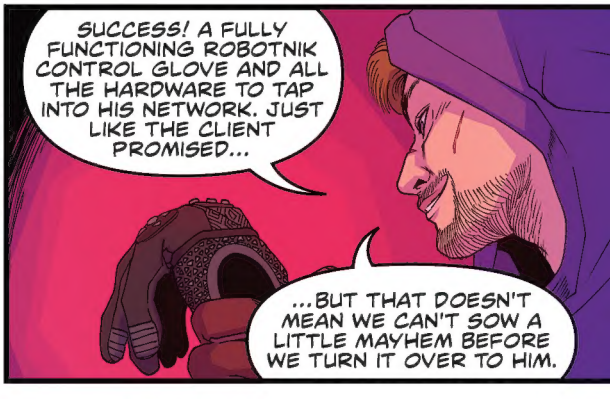

"THE CITIZENS OF GREEN HILLS. THEY'RE MY PEOPLE. THEY LOVE ME!
"EVEN WHEN THE ONLY FOLKS I CAN ACTUALLY INTERACT WITH ARE THE ONES I MAKE MYSELF."
WHAT IN THE WORLD?!
"I MEAN, SOME OF THEM STILL THINK I'M AN ESCAPED GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT OR MASS HALLUCINATION..."
DANG TEENAGERS OUT HERE MAKING MISCHIEF...
Barber
"...BUT I'M AN ADORABLE HALLUCINATION."
THEY SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL!
"IT'S A SIMPLE RELATIONSHIP, REALLY. I STAY OUT OF SIGHT, YET THEY OFFER AN OPEN-DOOR POLICY AT MOST HIGH-END EATERIES."
AND OCCASIONALLY, I USE MY WICKEDLY COOL POWERS TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL. THOUGH THERE'S ONLY BEEN ONE FORCE OF EVIL SO FAR... AM I SLIPPING IN MY OLD AGE?
"AW SHUCKS, SONIC. EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE A HERO."
PLEASE, SGT. SPRINKLES. YOU'RE TOO KIND. IF ONLY I COULD BE A REAL HERO... A MYSTERIOUS AVENGER WITH A TOUGH-SOUNDING NAME LIKE "THE ELECTRIC HOG"!
"THAT SOUNDS PRETTY COOL!"
I TELLS YA, YOU WAS A BLUE DEVIL WHEN YA FIRST SHOWED UP ON MY PROPERTY, AND THAT'S STILL THE BEST NAME FOR YA!
WHATEVER, MAN. IT'S STILL A WAY BETTER NAME THAN "CRAZY CARL."
AIN'T SO CRAZY AS I LOOK, YA BLUE DEVIL!

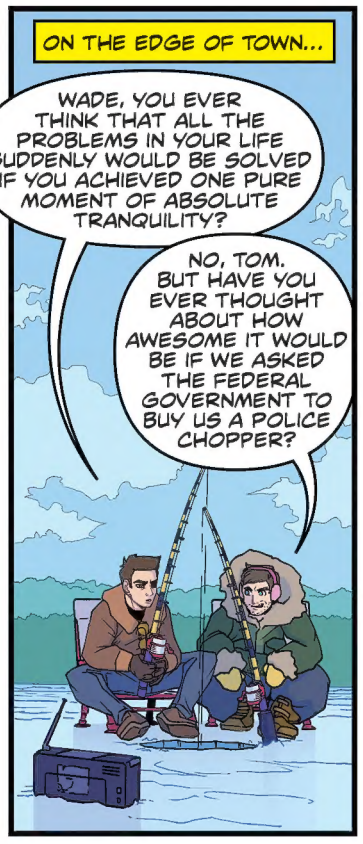

I JUST THOUGHT FINALLY COMING OUT OF HIDING WOULD BE MORE EXCITING THAN THIS.
I TAKE DOWN ONE MEGALOMANIACAL SCIENTIST AND THEN IT'S BACK TO A LIFE OF BOREDOM.
"IT COULD BE WORSE. YOU COULD BE OUT ON SOME BORING FISHING TRIP WITH TOM UP IN WALLA WALLA."

MEANWHILE, IN WALLA WALLA...
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS A HOLDUP! NOBODY MOVE!
JUST CALM DOWN, PEOPLE! WE DON'T WANT YOUR PATHETIC LIFE SAVINGS, ANYWAY.

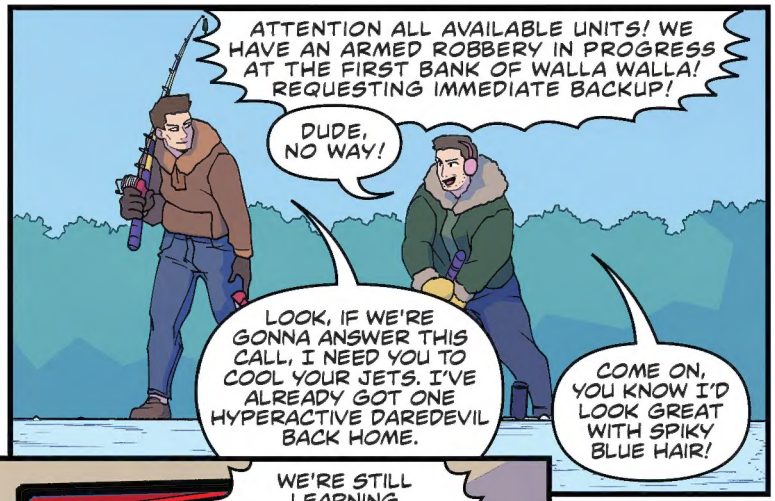
--TARGET APPROACHING-- 12 FEET--
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE VAULT, SISTER. IF I FIND WHAT I THINK I'M GONNA FIND, NO ONE GETS HURT.
OW!

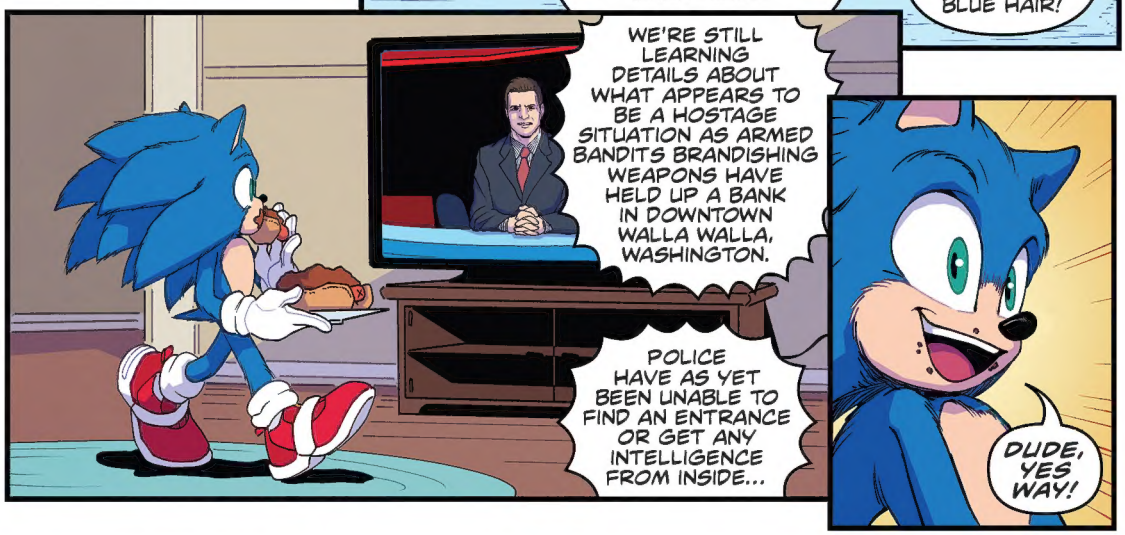
COME ON, SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX 203! TIME TO COUGH IT UP!

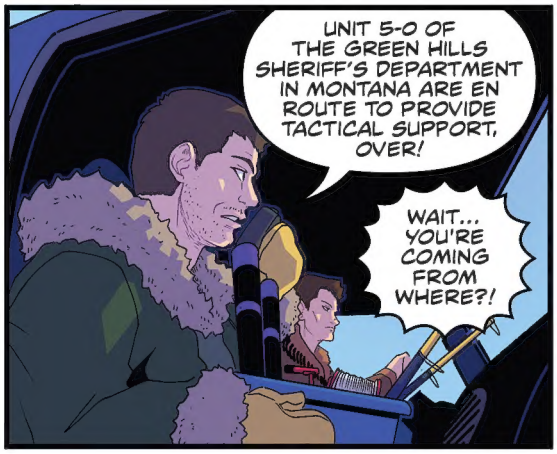

SUCCESS! A FULLY FUNCTIONING ROBOTNIK CONTROL GLOVE AND ALL THE HARDWARE TO TAP INTO HIS NETWORK. JUST LIKE THE CLIENT PROMISED...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T SOW A LITTLE MAYHEM BEFORE WE TURN IT OVER TO HIM.

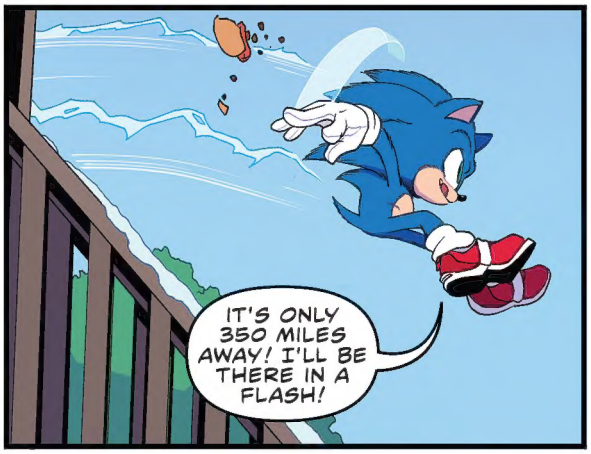

ON THE EDGE OF TOWN...
WADE, YOU EVER THINK THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE SUDDENLY WOULD BE SOLVED IF YOU ACHIEVED ONE PURE MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE TRANQUILITY?
NO, TOM. BUT HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW AWESOME IT WOULD BE IF WE ASKED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BUY US A POLICE CHOPPER?

I HAD ENOUGH AIRBORNE ACTION WHEN THAT NUTJOB DROPPED MADDIE AND ME OFF A SKYSCRAPER, BUDDY.
SURE. I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP WAITING BY THE OL' RELIABLE POLICE SCANNER HERE.
MAYBE SOMEDAY I'LL HEED THE CALL TO ADVENTURE.

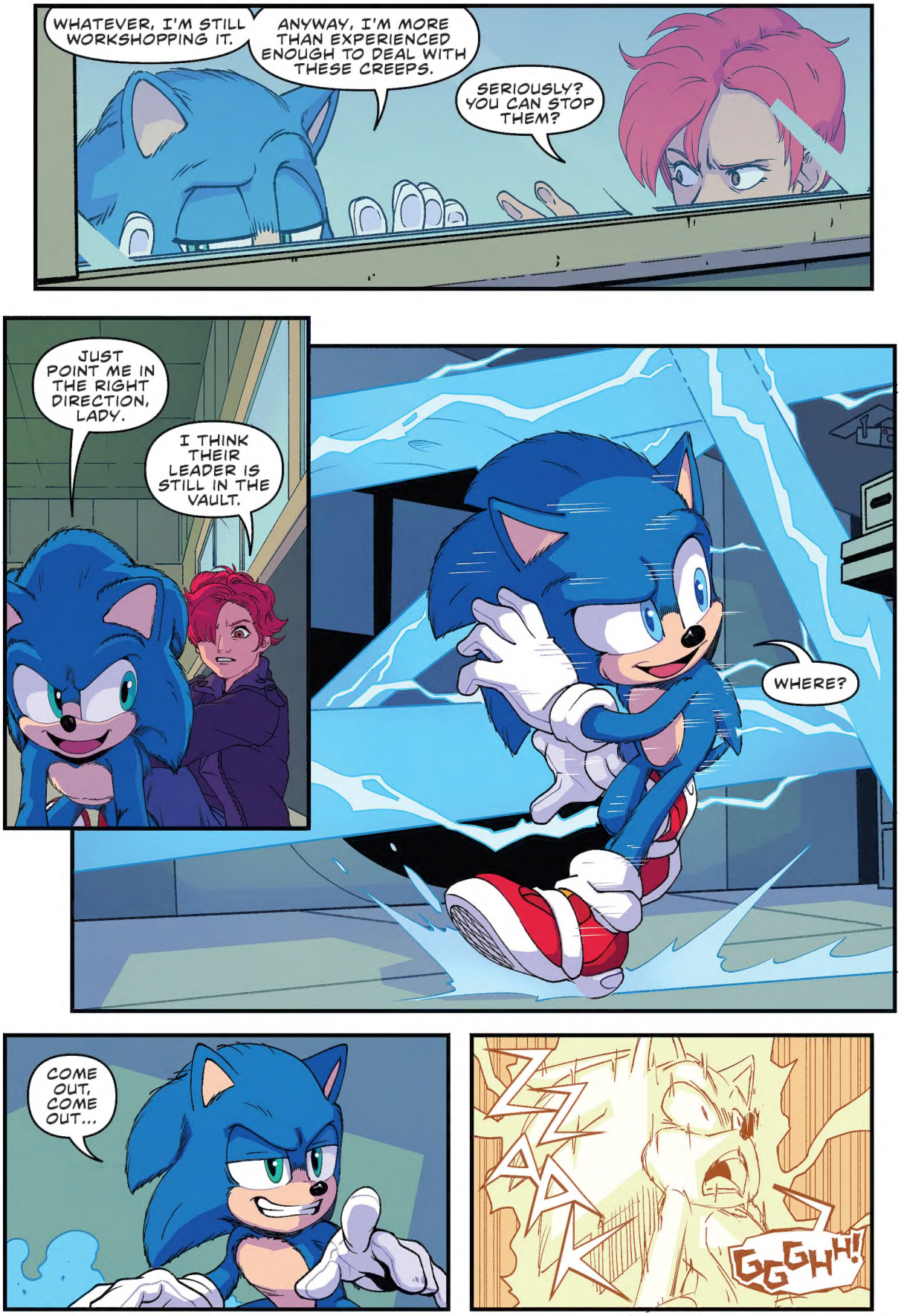

ATTENTION ALL AVAILABLE UNITS! WE HAVE AN ARMED ROBBERY IN PROGRESS AT THE FIRST BANK OF WALLA WALLA! REQUESTING IMMEDIATE BACKUP!
DUDE, NO WAY!
LOOK, IF WE'RE GONNA ANSWER THIS CALL, I NEED YOU TO COOL YOUR JETS. I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE HYPERACTIVE DAREDEVIL BACK HOME.
COME ON, YOU KNOW I'D LOOK GREAT WITH SPIKY BLUE HAIR!

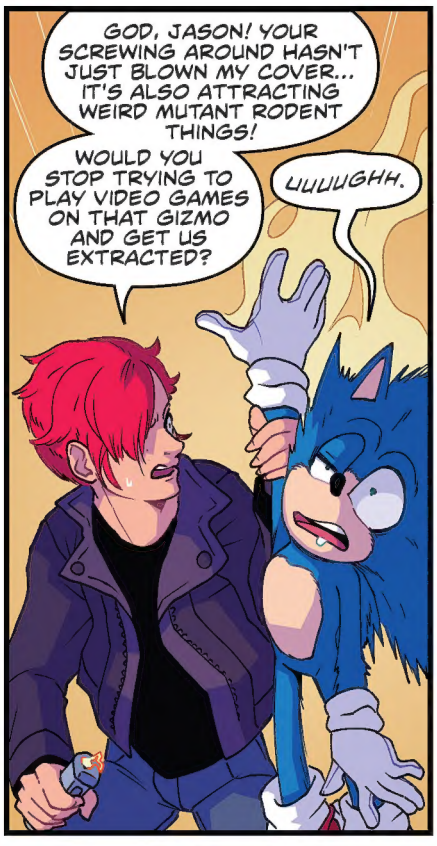

WE'RE STILL LEARNING DETAILS ABOUT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A HOSTAGE SITUATION AS ARMED BANDITS BRANDISHING WEAPONS HAVE HELD UP A BANK IN DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON.
POLICE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO FIND AN ENTRANCE OR GET ANY INTELLIGENCE FROM INSIDE...
DUDE, YES WAY!


UNIT 5-0 OF THE GREEN HILLS SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN MONTANA ARE EN ROUTE TO PROVIDE TACTICAL SUPPORT, OVER!
WAIT... YOU'RE COMING FROM WHERE?!


IT'S ONLY 350 MILES AWAY! I'LL BE THERE IN A FLASH!

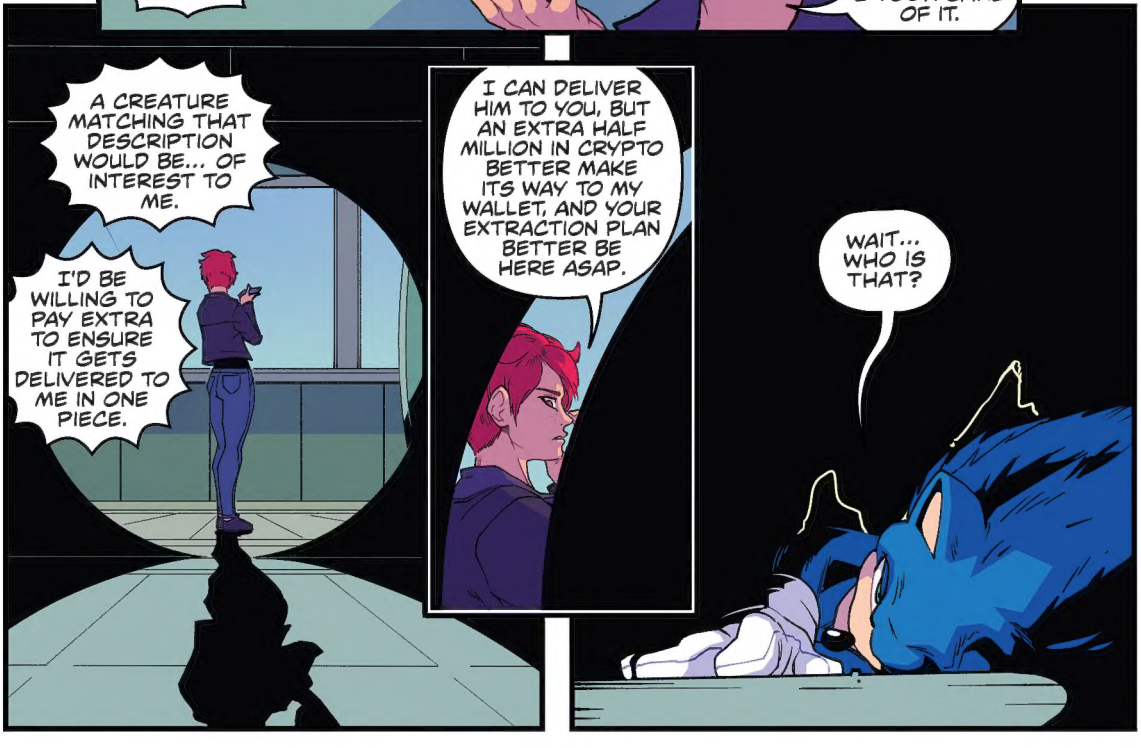
UH... HEY, BOSS? THE COPS ALREADY GOT THIS PLACE SURROUNDED. WHERE'S THAT ESCAPE ROUTE YOU PROMISED?
CHILL, BRO. I'M ACTIVATING THE WORK OF A GENIUS RIGHT NOW. AND GENIUS TAKES TIME.
--SCANNING FOR LOCAL ASSETS--
C'MON... C'MON!
JUST BREATHE, LINDSEY. A FEW MORE MINUTES AND THIS WILL ALL BE OVER...
OH, IT'LL BE OVER IN LESS THAN A FEW MINUTES. A FEW SECONDS IS ALL I NEED FOR BUMS LIKE THIS.
GAH!
NO NEED FOR ALARM, CITIZEN! NOT WHEN SUPER STREAK IS IN YOUR PRESENCE!
THAT'S THE HERO NAME YOU'RE GOING WITH? SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE NAKED... WAIT, ARE YOU NAKED?


WHATEVER, I'M STILL WORKSHOPPING IT.
ANYWAY, I'M MORE THAN EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THESE CREEPS.
SERIOUSLY? YOU CAN STOP THEM?
JUST POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, LADY.
I THINK THEIR LEADER IS STILL IN THE VAULT.
WHERE?
COME OUT, COME OUT...
ZAAK
GGGHH!


GOD, JASON! YOUR SCREWING AROUND HASN'T JUST BLOWN MY COVER... IT'S ALSO ATTRACTING WEIRD MUTANT RODENT THINGS!
WOULD YOU STOP TRYING TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES ON THAT GIZMO AND GET US EXTRACTED?
UUUUGHH.

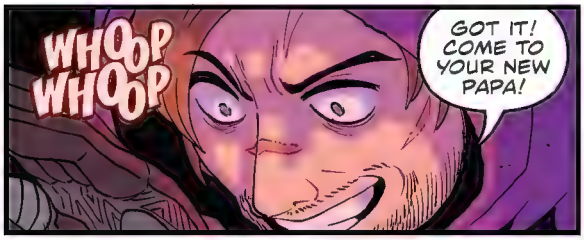
ALMOST THERE, HONEY BUNNY.
DON'T GET CUTE WITH ME. JUST GET IT DONE.

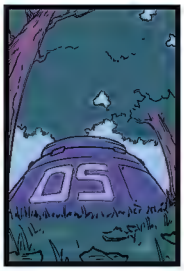
IT'S THE CAPTAIN. I'M MADE. THE COPS ARE BARKING DOWN OUR DOOR. AND NOW SOMEONE'S SENT SOME KIND OF GIANT BLUE CHIPMUNK AFTER ME.
A WHAT?!
I DON'T KNOW. SOME FAST-TALKING LITTLE FREAK. I TOOK CARE OF IT.


A CREATURE MATCHING THAT DESCRIPTION WOULD BE... OF INTEREST TO ME.
I'D BE WILLING TO PAY EXTRA TO ENSURE IT GETS DELIVERED TO ME IN ONE PIECE.
I CAN DELIVER HIM TO YOU, BUT AN EXTRA HALF MILLION IN CRYPTO BETTER MAKE ITS WAY TO MY WALLET, AND YOUR EXTRACTION PLAN BETTER BE HERE ASAP.
WAIT... WHO IS THAT?

OUTSIDE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
HEY LOOK! IT'S JUST LIKE A MOVIE! WOW!
WADE, CAN I REMIND YOU BEFORE WE ROLL UP HERE THAT YOU ARE A SWORN OFFICER OF THE LAW? GET YOUR GAME FACE ON.
THERE'VE BEEN NO DEMANDS, NO CONFIRMATION OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED... JUST A TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT. WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN THERE?

HOWDY, OFFICER. SHERIFF TOM WACHOWSKI. GREEN HILLS, MONTANA... CAUGHT THE A.P.B. HOW CAN WE BE OF ASSISTANCE?
EXCUSE ME?
SO WHAT DO WE GOT HERE? SOME KIND OF BOMB SITUATION? BECAUSE I'D TOTALLY BE UP FOR TRYING TO DEFUSE ONE OF THOSE.


WHOOP WHOOP
GOT IT! COME TO YOUR NEW PAPA!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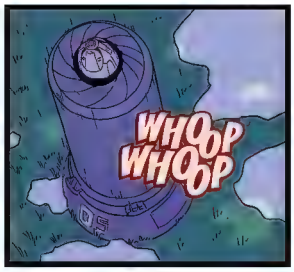
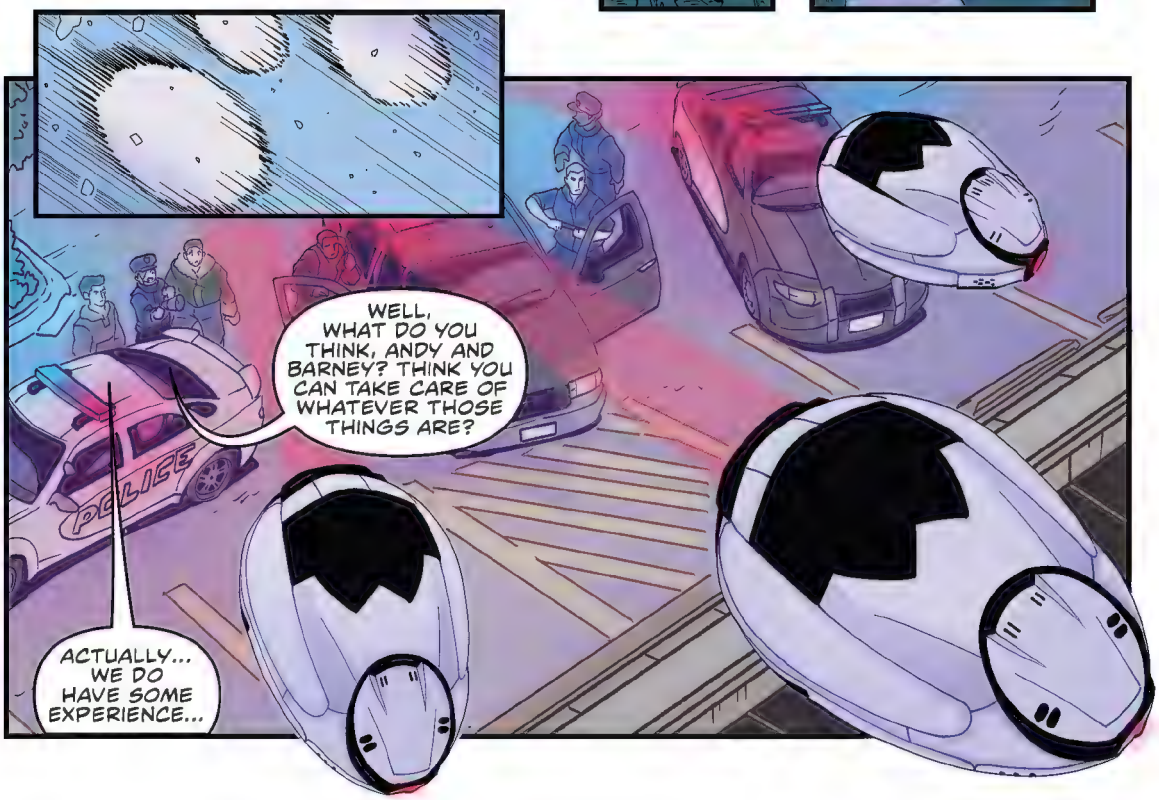
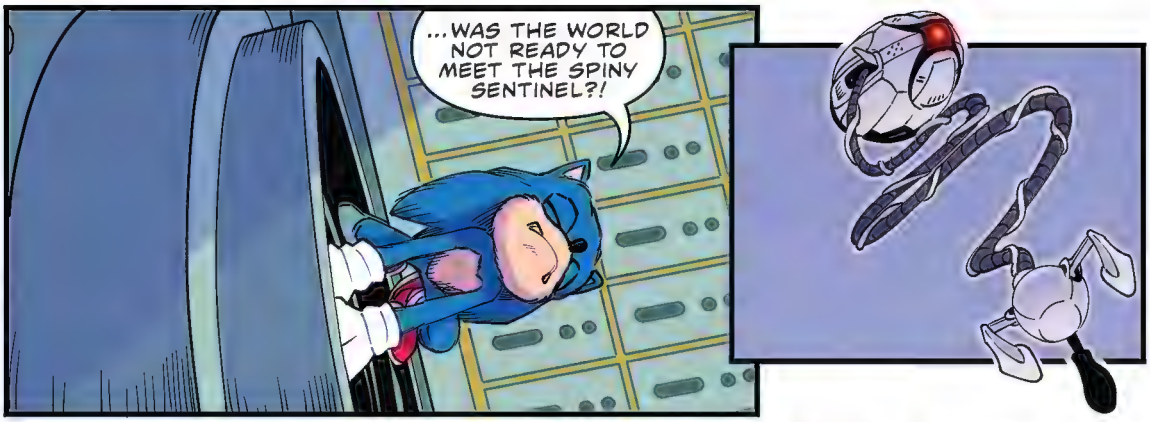
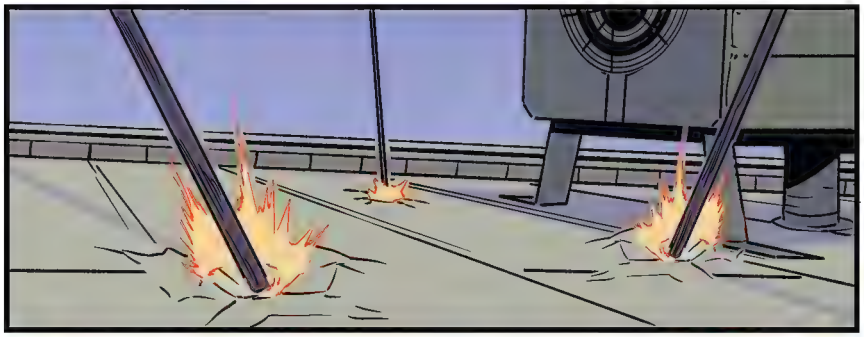

WHOOP WHOOP

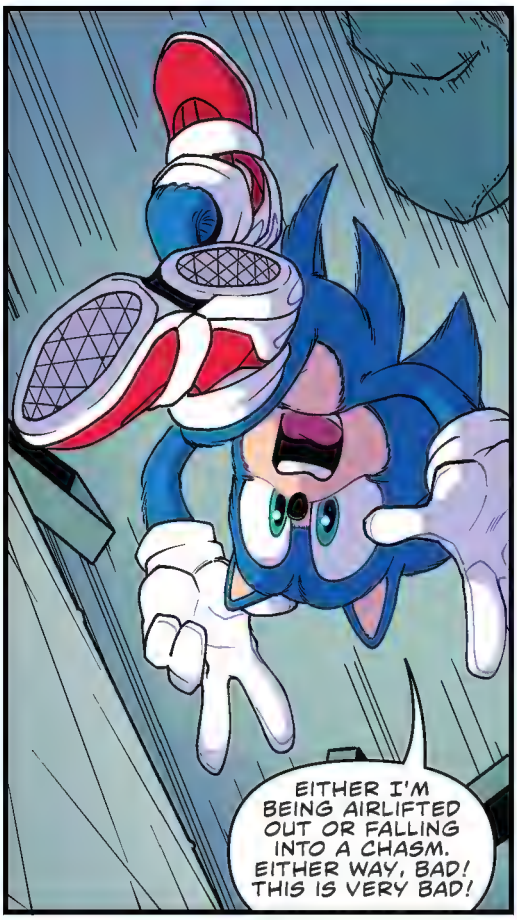

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, ANDY AND BARNEY? THINK YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF WHATEVER THOSE THINGS ARE?
ACTUALLY... WE DO HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE...
POLICE


...WAS THE WORLD NOT READY TO MEET THE SPINY SENTINEL?!

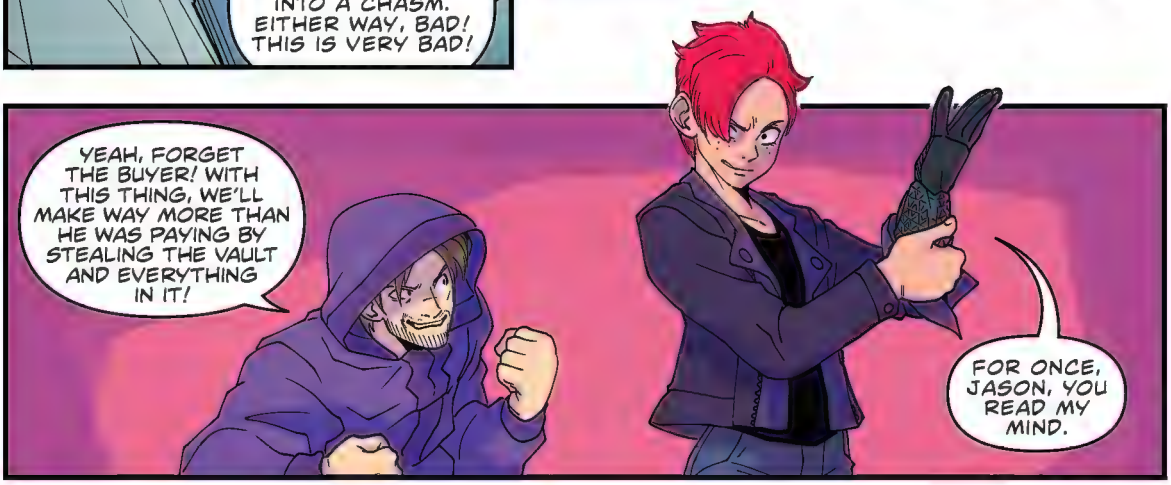


WHOA!

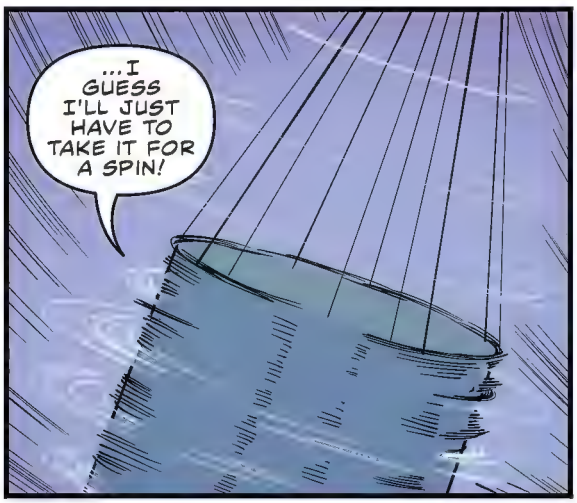
KRUNCH


EITHER I'M BEING AIRLIFTED OUT OR FALLING INTO A CHASM. EITHER WAY, BAD! THIS IS VERY BAD!

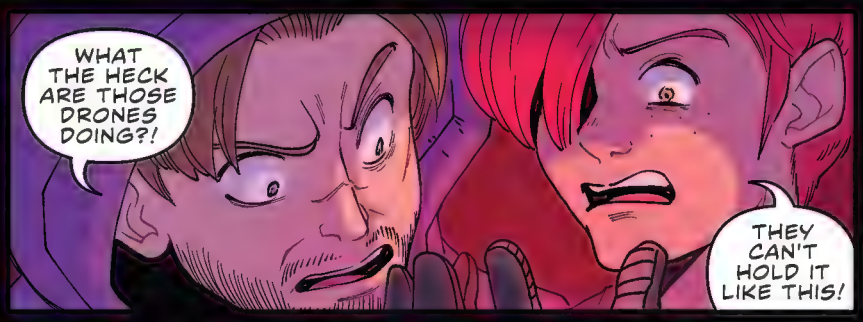
OH MY GOD! WHAT ELSE CAN THIS THING DO?!


YEAH, FORGET THE BUYER! WITH THIS THING, WE'LL MAKE WAY MORE THAN HE WAS PAYING BY STEALING THE VAULT AND EVERYTHING IN IT!
FOR ONCE, JASON, YOU READ MY MIND.

WHAT WOULD AN INTREPID SUPER-TYPE VIGILANTE DO IN THIS SITUATION?
WELL, IF THE BAD GUYS WANT TO TAKE THE VAULT...


...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT FOR A SPIN!

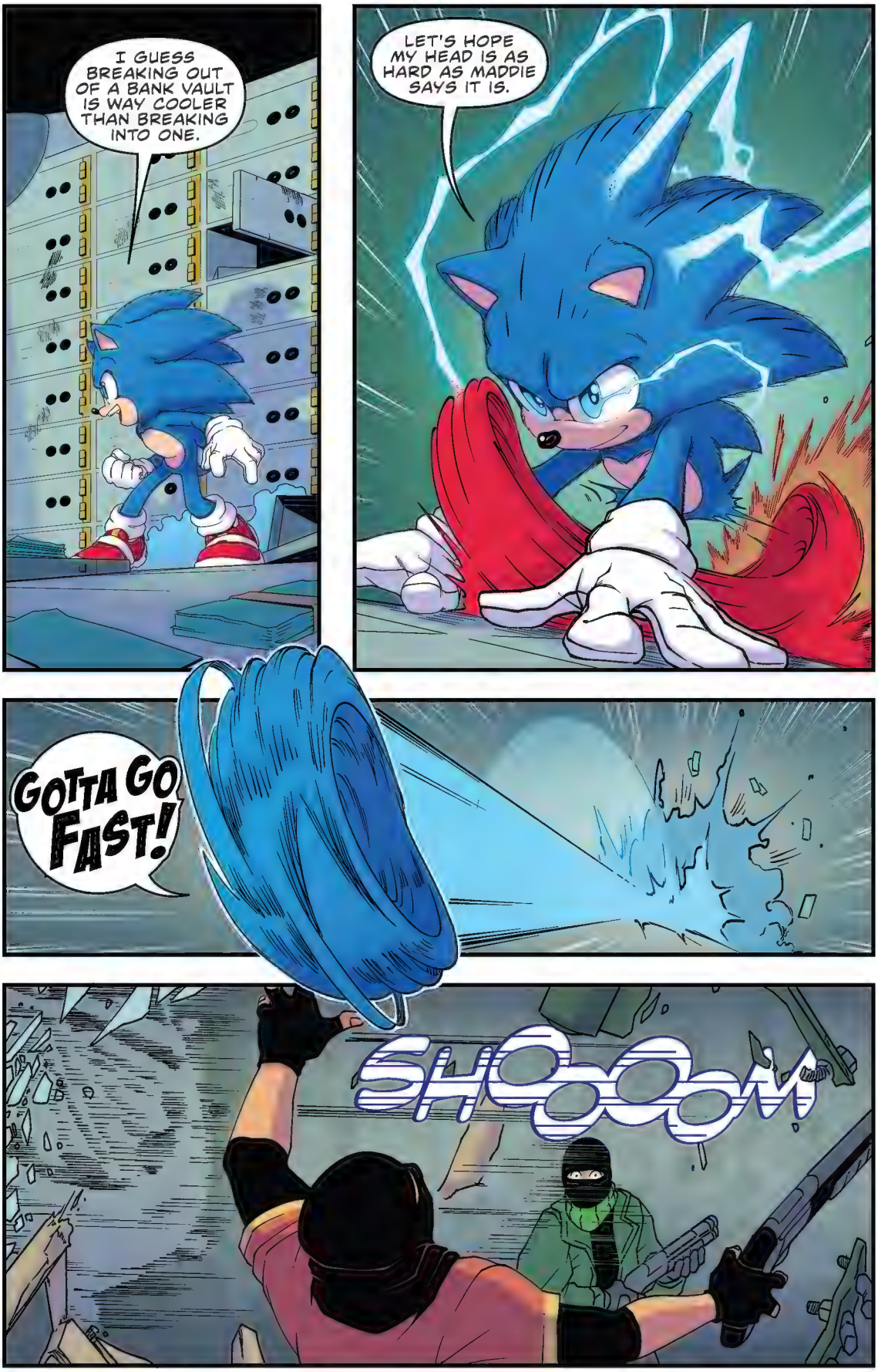
WHOOOOOM
EVERYONE RUN FOR COVER!
GAH!


WHAT THE HECK ARE THOSE DRONES DOING?!
THEY CAN'T HOLD IT LIKE THIS!

WUNCH

OKAY, VAULT. WE'RE GOING TO CALL THAT ROUND A DRAW.

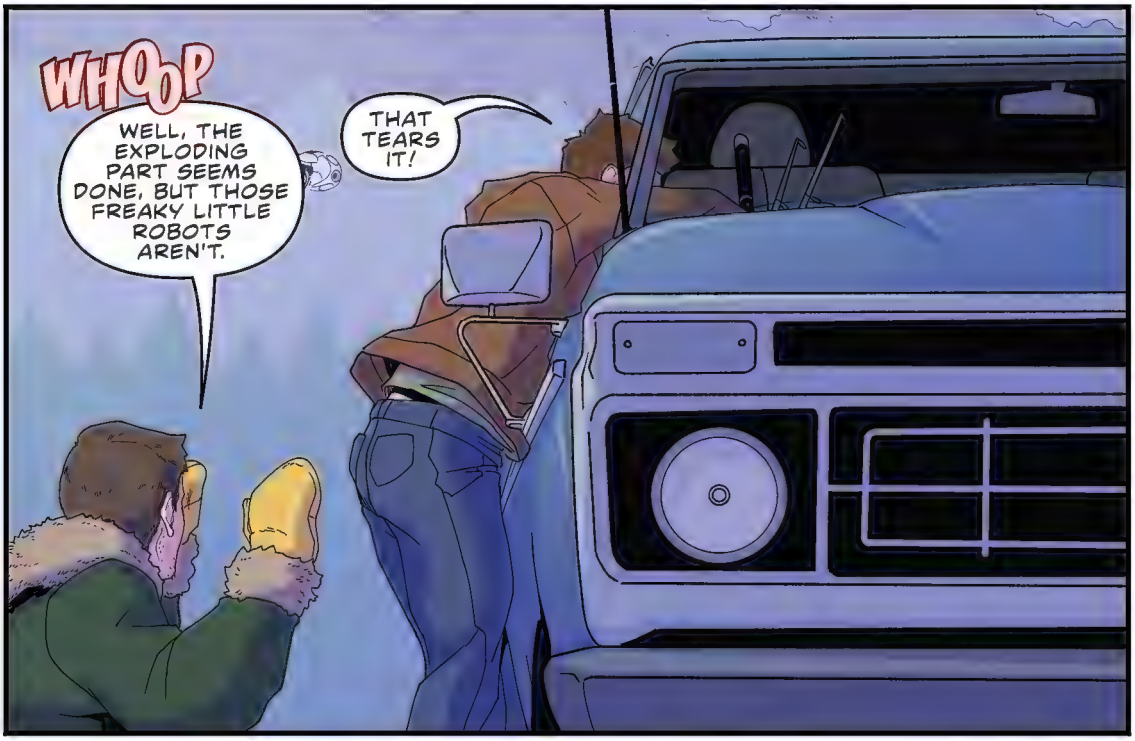
WHATEVER THAT THING IN THERE IS... IT'S NOT GONNA LAST MUCH LONGER, RIGHT?!
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT.

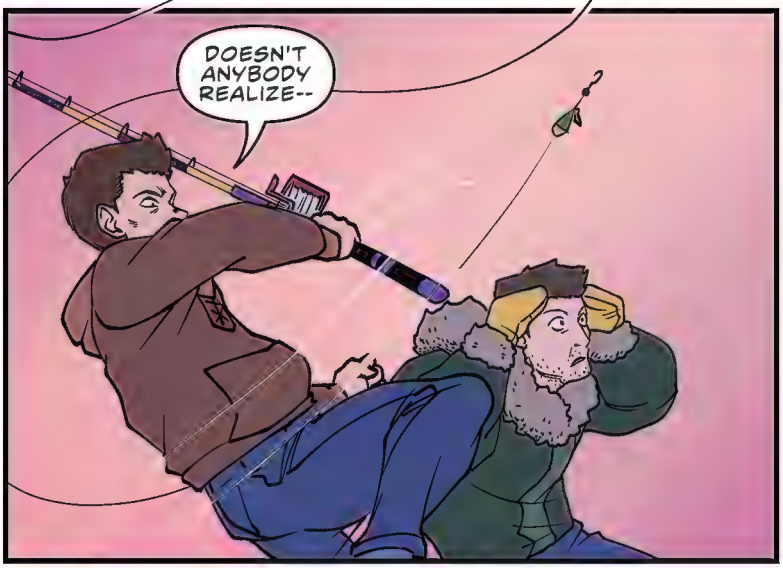

I GUESS BREAKING OUT OF A BANK VAULT IS WAY COOLER THAN BREAKING INTO ONE.
LET'S HOPE MY HEAD IS AS HARD AS MADDIE SAYS IT IS.
GOTTA GO FAST!
SHOOOOM

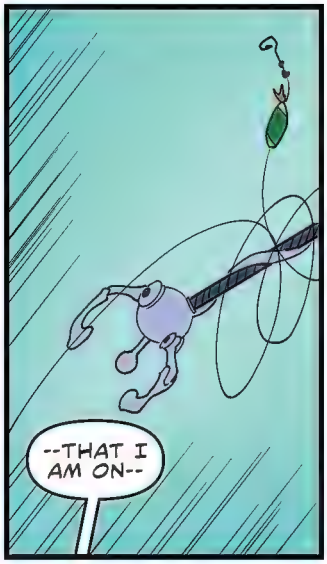
NOW WE CAN DO THIS ONE OF TWO WAYS... THE EASY WAY...
...OR THE HARD WAY... TRAVELED ONLY BY...
...HEDGEHOG THE UNKILLABLE!

IS THAT... IS THAT SUPPOSED TO INTIMIDATE US?
WHAT? TOO "AVENGING VIGILANTE"?

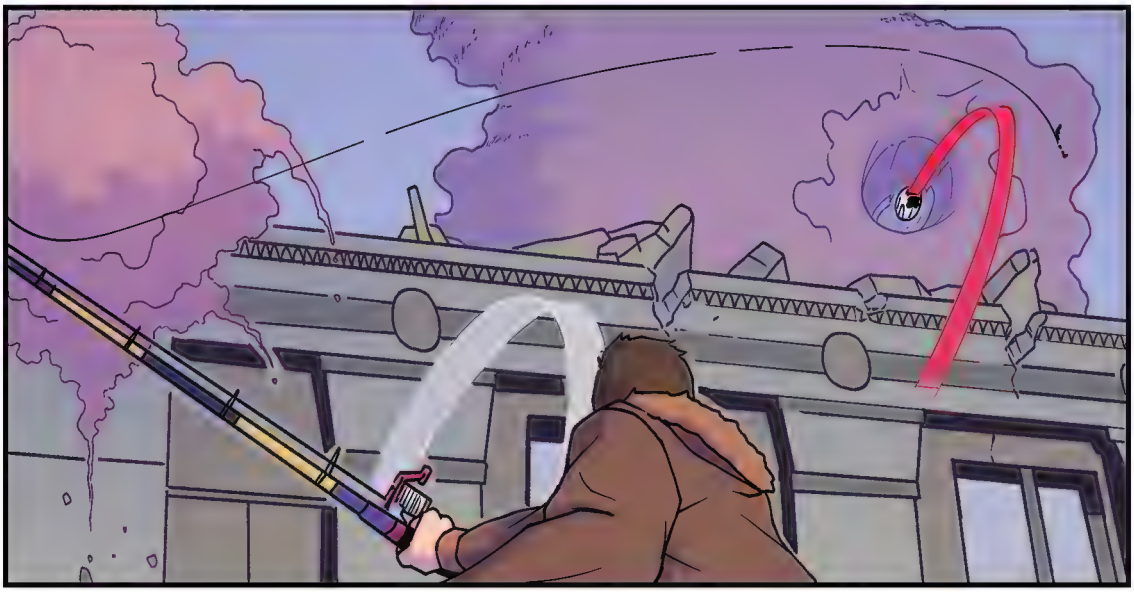
KEEP RUNNING THAT MOUTH, FURBALL.
WHOOP WHOOP


WHOOP
WELL, THE EXPLODING PART SEEMS DONE, BUT THOSE FREAKY LITTLE ROBOTS AREN'T.
THAT TEARS IT!


DOESN'T ANYBODY REALIZE--


--THAT I AM ON--

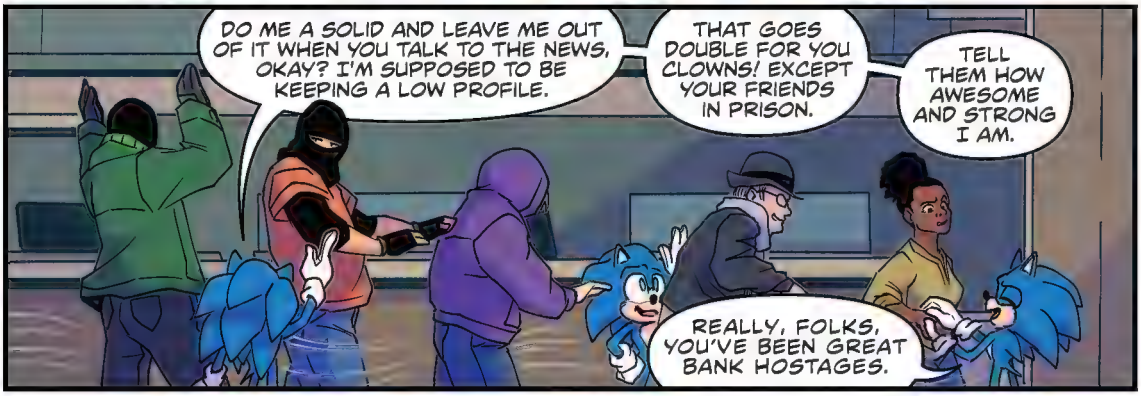
--MY VACATION!
BOOM



NOW, I KNOW YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE BIG, TOUGH BANK ROBBER GUYS...
...BUT YOU WOULDN'T SHOOT WHAT I'M PRETTY SURE IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES, WOULD YOU?
WHO AM I KIDDING? YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO OPEN FIRE!
BUT REALLY, YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY LUCKY.
ENNF!
WOOF!
NOT LIKE ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE YOU GOT YOUR BUTTS HANDED TO YOU BY A THREE-FOOT-TALL HEDGEHOG!
WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT GLOVE?
I JUST READ ABOUT IT ON THE DARK WEB, I SWEAR!
BUT I GOT THE KILLER HOOK UP HERE!
SAY WHAAAT?
SICK 'EM!

WHAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU STUPID MACHINE?! OBEY ME!

THOSE THINGS ONLY OBEY ONE MASTER I KNOW OF, AND HE NEVER LIKED TO SHARE.
BUT KEEP SLAPPING IT AND MAYBE YOU'LL FIND THE FACTORY RESET?


DO ME A SOLID AND LEAVE ME OUT OF IT WHEN YOU TALK TO THE NEWS, OKAY? I'M SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING A LOW PROFILE.
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU CLOWNS! EXCEPT YOUR FRIENDS IN PRISON.
TELL THEM HOW AWESOME AND STRONG I AM.
REALLY, FOLKS, YOU'VE BEEN GREAT BANK HOSTAGES.

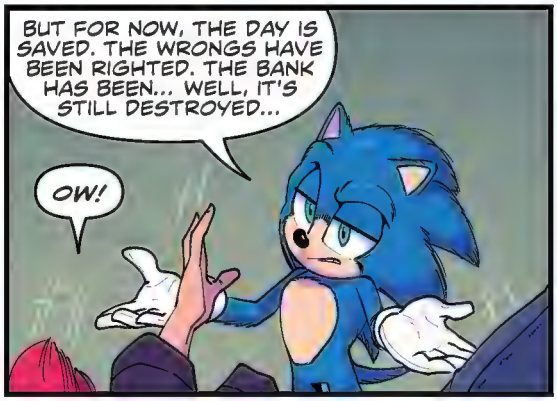
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S IN THERE, BUT AS A SHERIFF WITH NO JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY HERE...
...I DEMAND YOUR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!

IT'S OKAY! WE SURRENDER!
WE, UH... SUDDENLY REALIZED THE ERROR OF OUR WAYS!
YOU DID?
I MEAN... OF COURSE YOU DID! KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM, AND NO FUNNY STUFF!

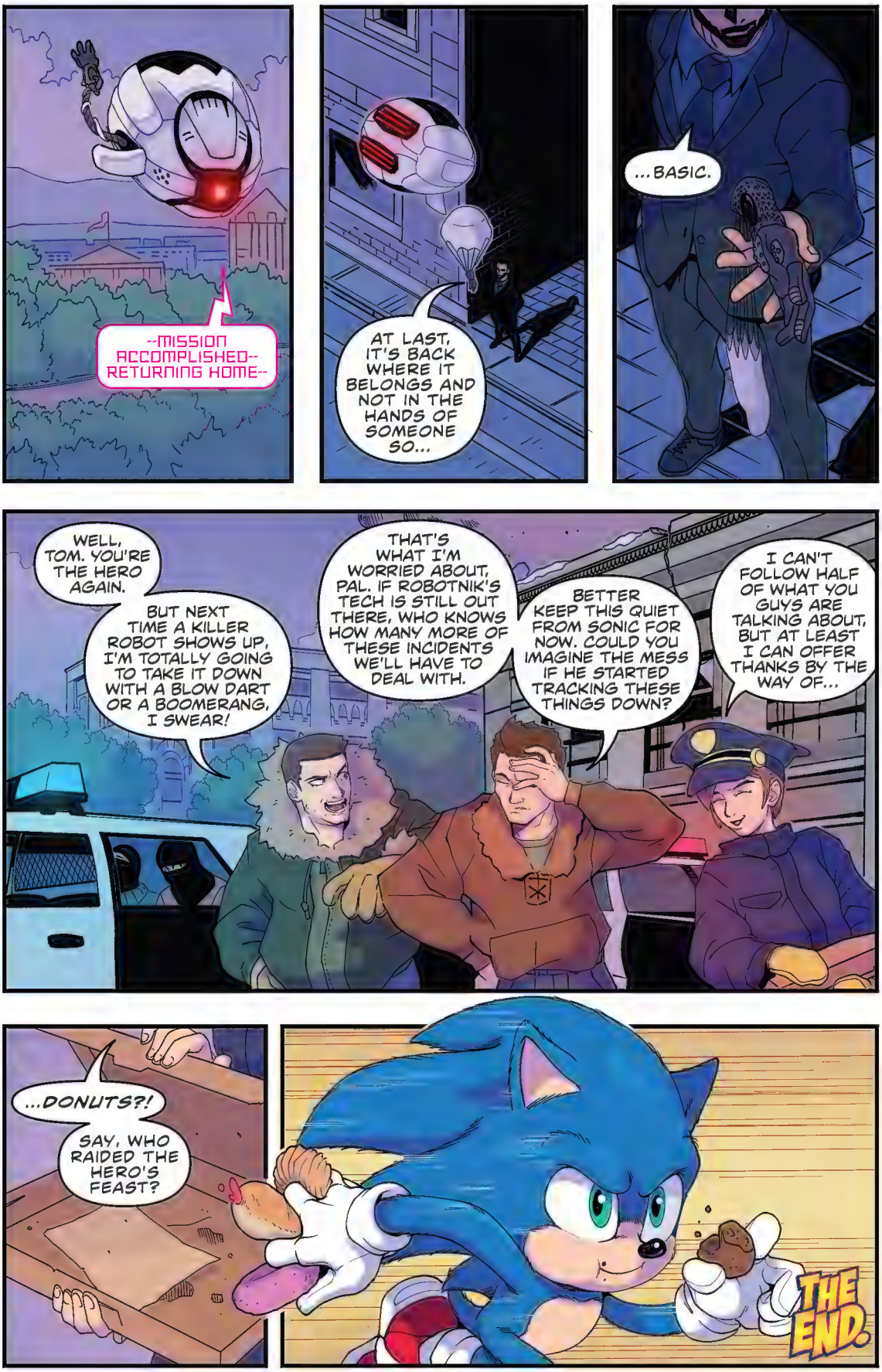
NOW TO FIND OUT WHAT'S UP WITH EGGMAN'S REJECTS!

AHHH!
AH, MAN!

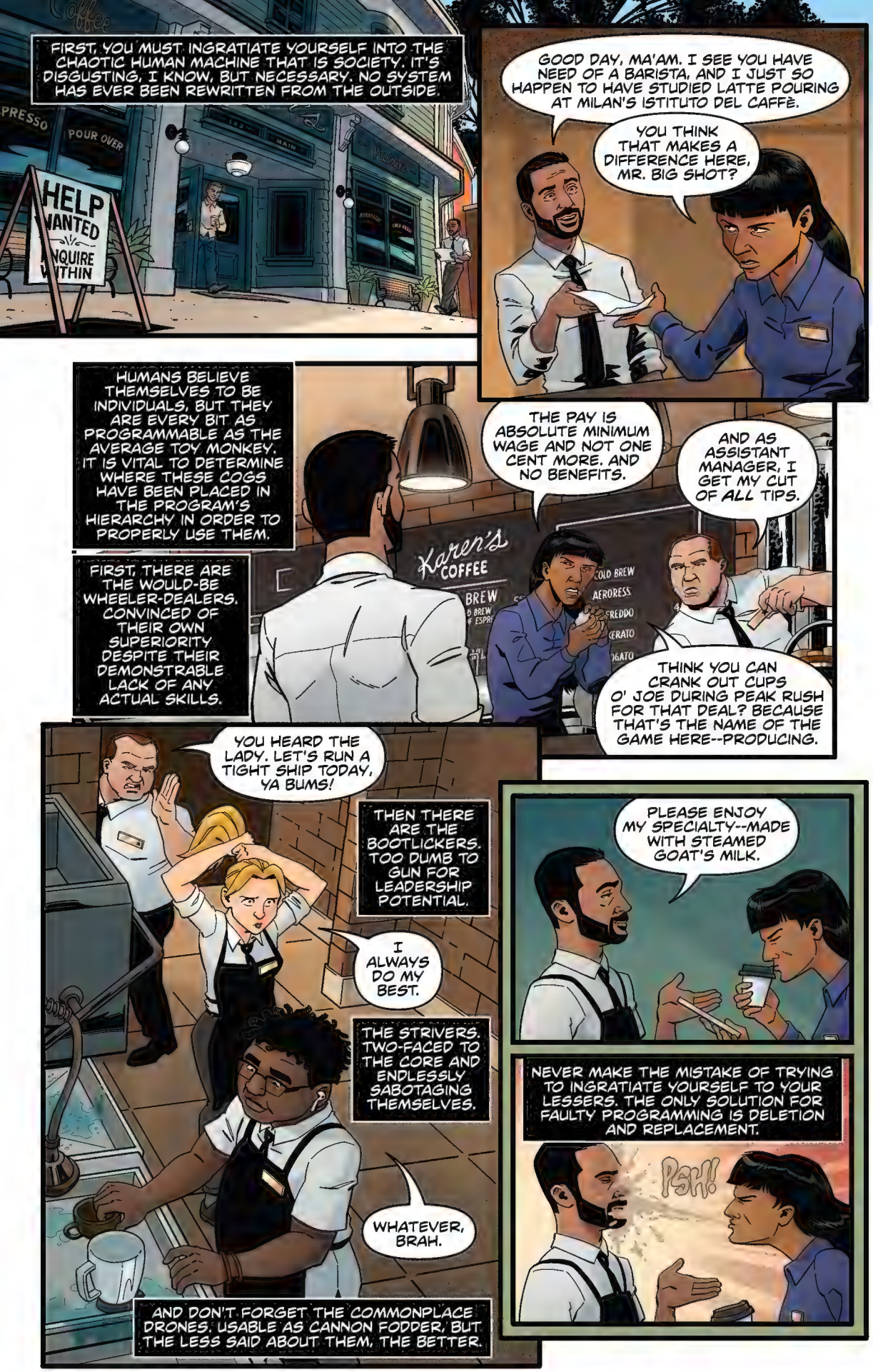
OOF!
EVEN CRIMINALS DON'T DESERVE BROKEN NECKS.
THOUGH IF YOU WEREN'T SO BAD AT CRIME, I'D SUSPECT YOU WERE REALLY DISTRACTING ME TO LET THAT BADNIK ESCAPE.


BUT FOR NOW, THE DAY IS SAVED. THE WRONGS HAVE BEEN RIGHTED. THE BANK HAS BEEN... WELL, IT'S STILL DESTROYED...
OW!

AND YOU'LL DO THE TIME FOR THAT ONE, GIRL BOSS! AS WILL ALL EVILDOERS WHO DARE TO CROSS QUILLS WITH...
...BLUE JUSTICE!
I'LL SURRENDER TO THAT ONE IF YOU JUST. STOP. TALKING.

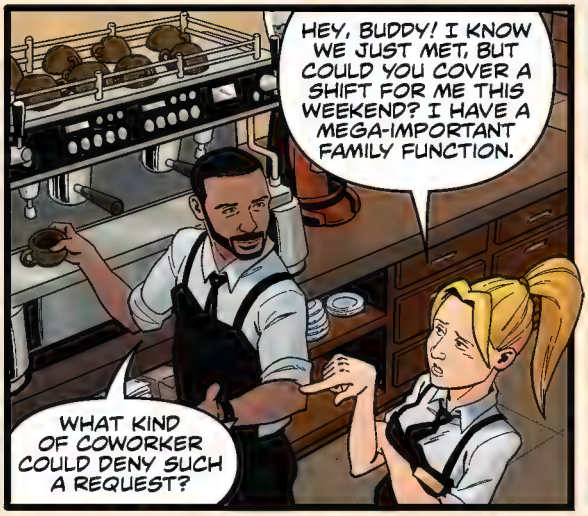

--MISSION ACCOMPLISHED--
RETURNING HOME--
AT LAST, IT'S BACK WHERE IT BELONGS AND NOT IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE SO...
...BASIC.
WELL, TOM. YOU'RE THE HERO AGAIN.
BUT NEXT TIME A KILLER ROBOT SHOWS UP, I'M TOTALLY GOING TO TAKE IT DOWN WITH A BLOW DART OR A BOOMERANG, I SWEAR!
THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, PAL. IF ROBOTNIK'S TECH IS STILL OUT THERE, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE OF THESE INCIDENTS WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
BETTER KEEP THIS QUIET FROM SONIC FOR NOW. COULD YOU IMAGINE THE MESS IF HE STARTED TRACKING THESE THINGS DOWN?
I CAN'T FOLLOW HALF OF WHAT YOU GUYS ARE TALKING ABOUT, BUT AT LEAST I CAN OFFER THANKS BY THE WAY OF...
...DONUTS?!
SAY, WHO RAIDED THE HERO'S FEAST?
THE END.

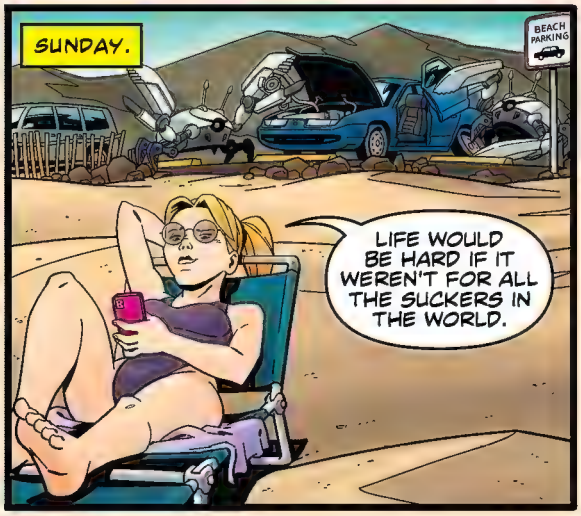
FACE IT. COMPARED TO ME, YOU ARE A KNOW-NOTHING. AN IGNORAMUS. A HALF-WIT... HOWEVER...
...COMPARED TO THE LEGIONS OF PRIMITIVE, SPORT-CHEERING, SOCIAL MEDIA-SCROLLING KNUCKLE-DRAGGERS THAT MAKE UP THE HUMAN RACE, YOU ARE PRACTICALLY A GENIUS.
IF YOU ARE TO SURVIVE IN MY ABSENCE, YOU WILL NEED MORE THAN MY TECHNOLOGY. YOU WILL NEED MY PHILOSOPHY. YOU MUST REBUILD YOURSELF AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PURE SCIENCE.
Green Hills
LITTLE TOWN BIG HEART
HERE I GIVE YOU ALL THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED TO PLAY THE WHIMPERING SIMPS OF AMERICA LIKE A FIDDLE. ONLY THEN CAN YOU REBUILD MY GLORY ON A MASS SCALE.
THIS IS THE CONTINGENCY PLAN TO END ALL CONTINGENCY PLANS.
THIS IS THE FOOLPROOF METHODOLOGY THAT WILL ELEVATE YOU BEYOND THE BASIC AND INTO THE SUPER GENIUS. FOR I AM DR. ROBOTNIK...
...AND THIS IS MY MANIFESTO!
THE SECRET OF MY
DISTRESS

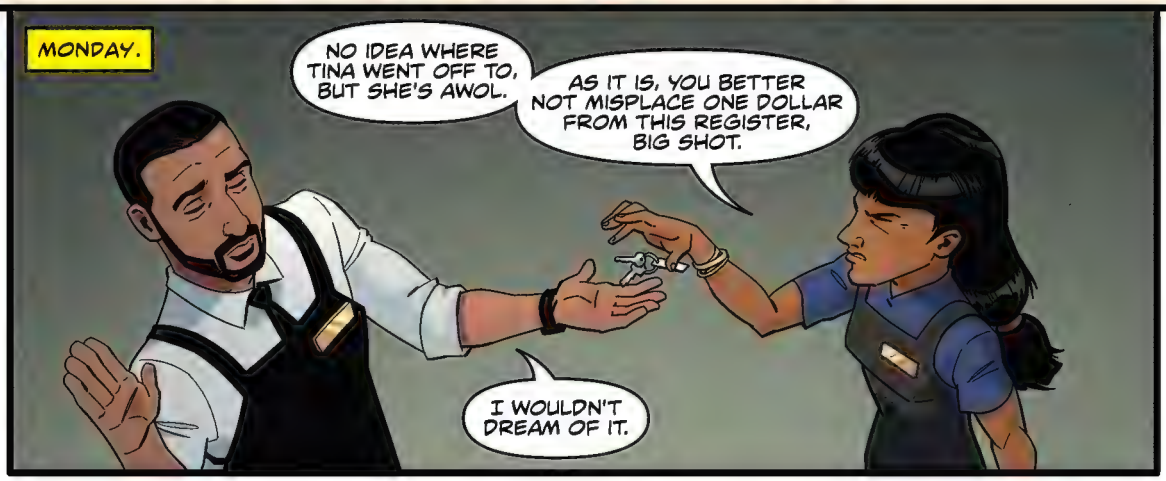

FIRST, YOU MUST INGRATIATE YOURSELF INTO THE CHAOTIC HUMAN MACHINE THAT IS SOCIETY. IT'S DISGUSTING, I KNOW, BUT NECESSARY. NO SYSTEM HAS EVER BEEN REWRITTEN FROM THE OUTSIDE.
POUR OVER
HELP WANTED INQUIRE WITHIN
GOOD DAY, MA'AM. I SEE YOU HAVE NEED OF A BARISTA, AND I JUST SO HAPPEN TO HAVE STUDIED LATTE POURING AT MILAN'S ISTITUTO DEL CAFFÈ.
YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE HERE, MR. BIG SHOT?
HUMANS BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE INDIVIDUALS, BUT THEY ARE EVERY BIT AS PROGRAMMABLE AS THE AVERAGE TOY MONKEY. IT IS VITAL TO DETERMINE WHERE THESE COGS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE PROGRAM'S HIERARCHY IN ORDER TO PROPERLY USE THEM.
FIRST, THERE ARE THE WOULD-BE WHEELER-DEALERS. CONVINCED OF THEIR OWN SUPERIORITY DESPITE THEIR DEMONSTRABLE LACK OF ANY ACTUAL SKILLS.
THE PAY IS ABSOLUTE MINIMUM WAGE AND NOT ONE CENT MORE. AND NO BENEFITS.
AND AS ASSISTANT MANAGER, I GET MY CUT OF ALL TIPS.
Karen's COFFEE
THINK YOU CAN CRANK OUT CUPS O' JOE DURING PEAK RUSH FOR THAT DEAL? BECAUSE THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME HERE--PRODUCING.
YOU HEARD THE LADY. LET'S RUN A TIGHT SHIP TODAY, YA BUMS!
THEN THERE ARE THE BOOTLICKERS. TOO DUMB TO GUN FOR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL.
I ALWAYS DO MY BEST.
THE STRIVERS. TWO-FACED TO THE CORE AND ENDLESSLY SABOTAGING THEMSELVES.
WHATEVER, BRAH.
AND DON'T FORGET THE COMMONPLACE DRONES. USABLE AS CANNON FODDER, BUT THE LESS SAID ABOUT THEM, THE BETTER.
PLEASE ENJOY MY SPECIALTY--MADE WITH STEAMED GOAT'S MILK.
NEVER MAKE THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO INGRATIATE YOURSELF TO YOUR LESSERS. THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR FAULTY PROGRAMMING IS DELETION AND REPLACEMENT.
PSH!

UGH! THAT TASTED LIKE COTTAGE CHEESE! WHAT KIND OF FREAK WOULD DRINK THIS?
CLEAN THIS MESS UP, BIG SHOT!
MAN, THIS IS KAREN'S WORLD. YOU'RE JUST LIVING IN IT NOW.

IF IT HELPS, YOU CAN LISTEN TO MY PODCAST--122 EPISODES ABOUT THE DEEP SOCIAL THEMES OF '80s BUDDY ACTION MOVIES...
I HAVE NO TIME FOR THE PRATTLE OF THE MASSES. AS FOR KAREN, GIVE ME A WEEK, AND I'LL CONTROL EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IN THIS PLACE. THEN SHE WILL SURELY BOW TO MY POWER.
THAT'S A REALLY WEIRD THING TO SAY, DUDE.

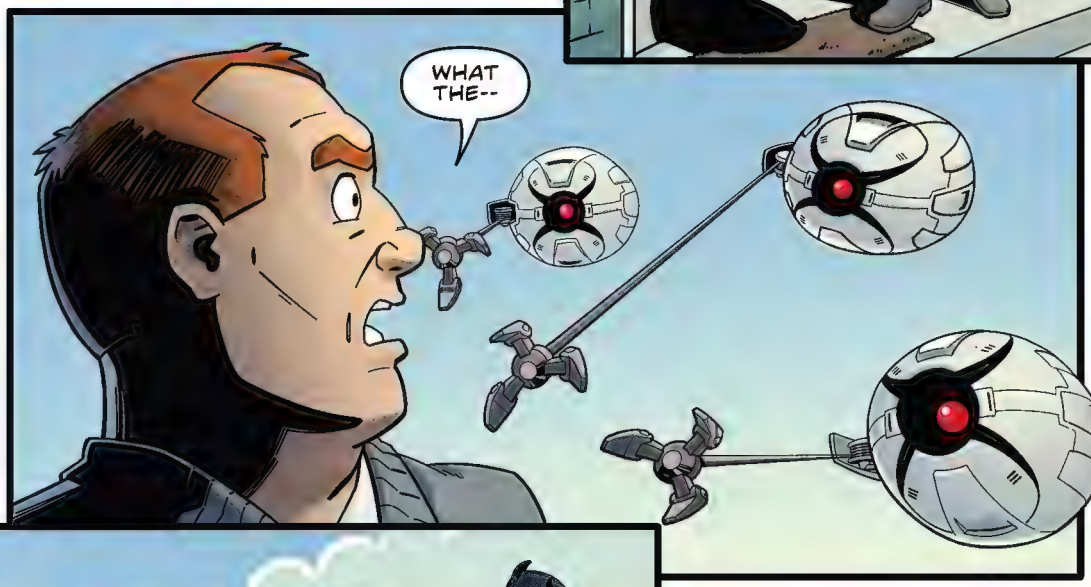

HEY, BUDDY! I KNOW WE JUST MET, BUT COULD YOU COVER A SHIFT FOR ME THIS WEEKEND? I HAVE A MEGA-IMPORTANT FAMILY FUNCTION.
WHAT KIND OF COWORKER COULD DENY SUCH A REQUEST?


SUNDAY.
BEACH PARKING
LIFE WOULD BE HARD IF IT WEREN'T FOR ALL THE SUCKERS IN THE WORLD.


MONDAY.
NO IDEA WHERE TINA WENT OFF TO, BUT SHE'S AWOL.
AS IT IS, YOU BETTER NOT MISPLACE ONE DOLLAR FROM THIS REGISTER, BIG SHOT.
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.

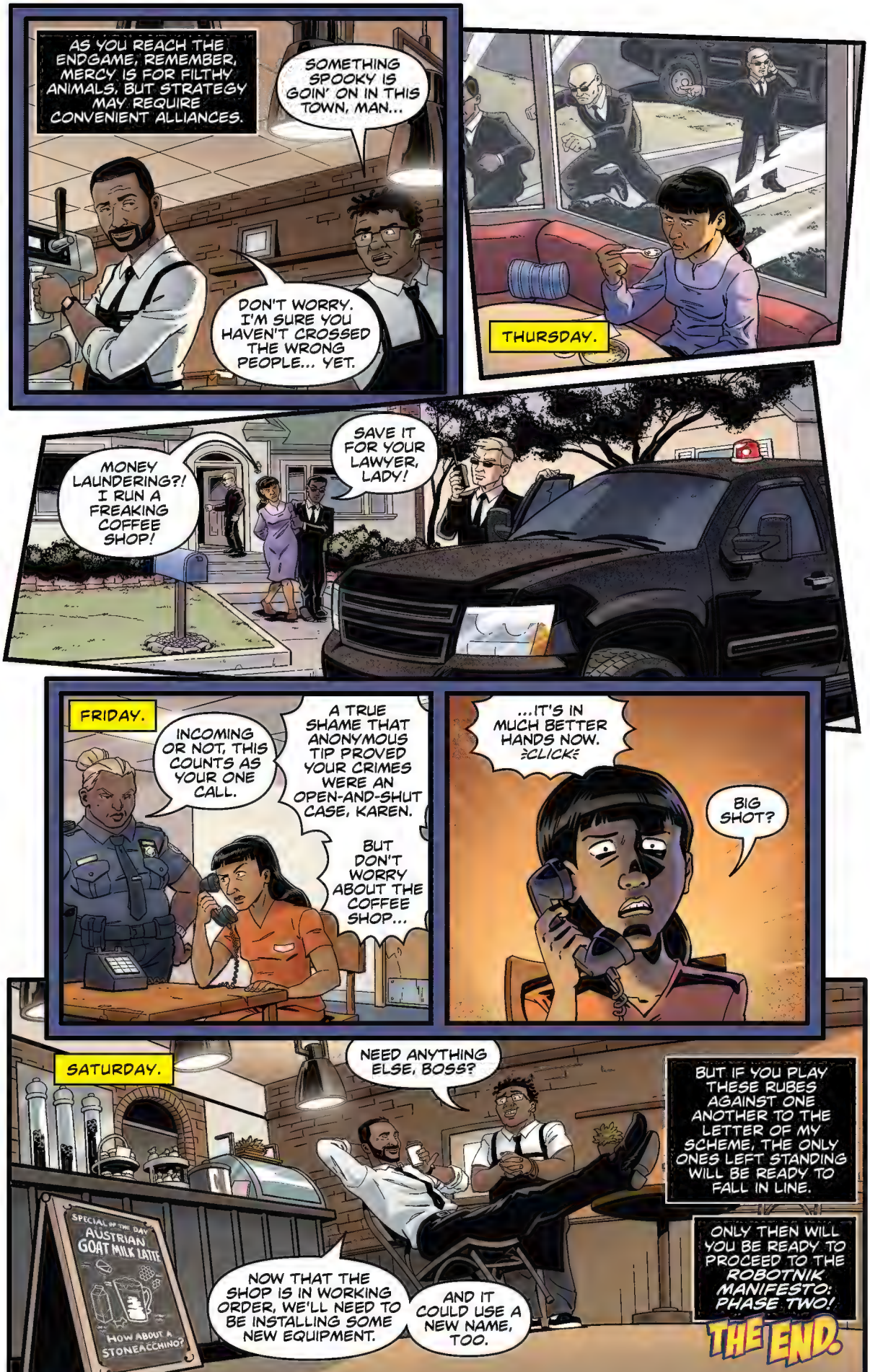
YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' ANYBODY WITH THAT SLICK LOOK, CHUMP. STEP OUT OF LINE AND I'LL BE READY TO KNOCK YOU DOWN A FEW PEGS.
MY ONLY GOAL HERE IS TO SERVE THE STORE... INCLUDING A FEW UPGRADES.

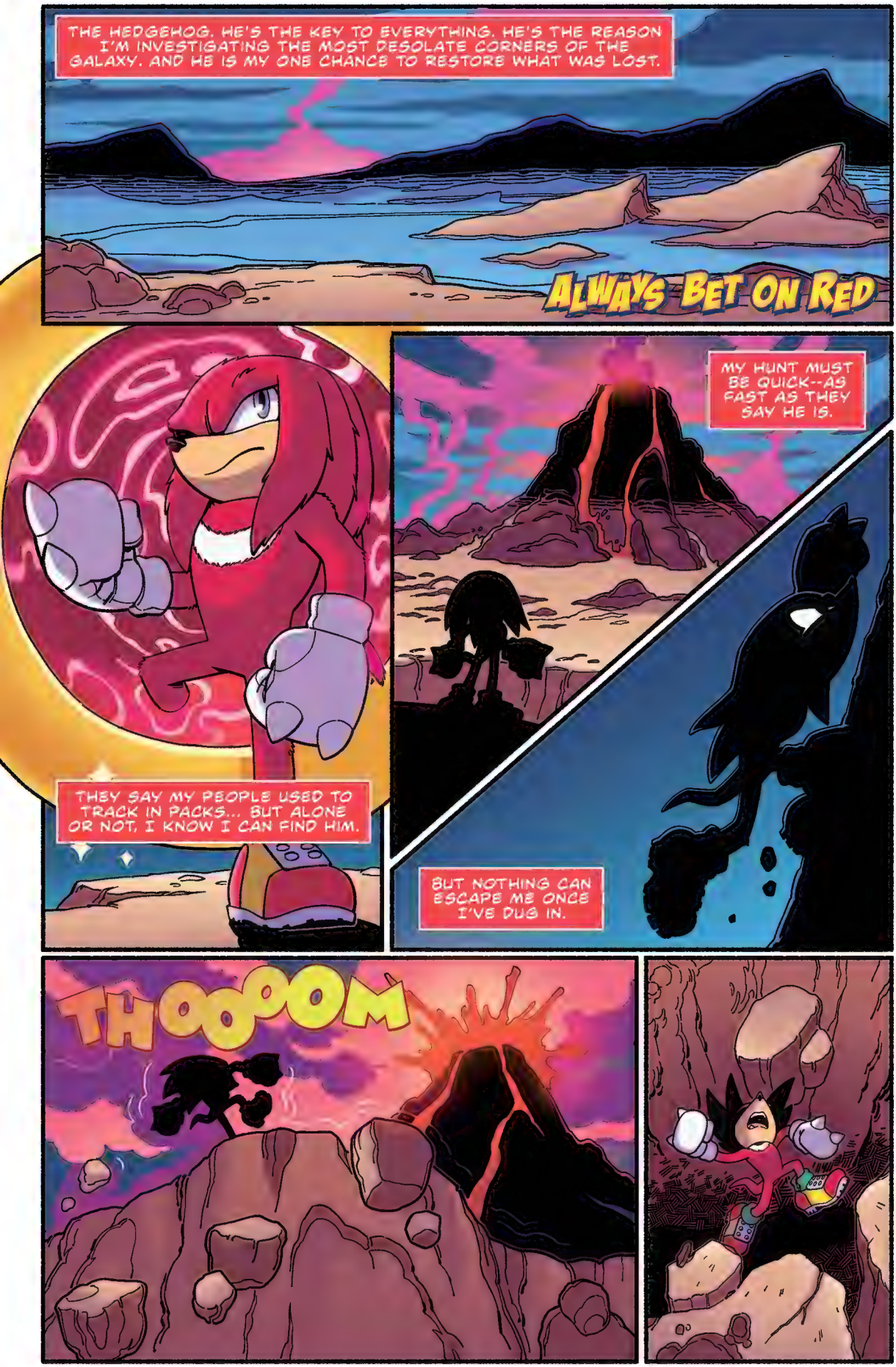
TUESDAY.


WHAT THE--

AHHH!

EMPLOYEES ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES. WHY DOES NO ONE WANT TO WORK ANYMORE?
IT'S UP TO YOU TO PICK UP THE SLACK, AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE PRODUCTION SLOW DOWN!
WEDNESDAY.


AS YOU REACH THE ENDGAME, REMEMBER, MERCY IS FOR FILTHY ANIMALS, BUT STRATEGY MAY REQUIRE CONVENIENT ALLIANCES.
SOMETHING SPOOKY IS GOIN' ON IN THIS TOWN, MAN...
DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T CROSSED THE WRONG PEOPLE... YET.
THURSDAY.
MONEY LAUNDERING?! I RUN A FREAKING COFFEE SHOP!
SAVE IT FOR YOUR LAWYER, LADY!
FRIDAY.
INCOMING OR NOT, THIS COUNTS AS YOUR ONE CALL.
A TRUE SHAME THAT ANONYMOUS TIP PROVED YOUR CRIMES WERE AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE, KAREN.
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COFFEE SHOP...
...IT'S IN MUCH BETTER HANDS NOW. ≈CLICK≈
BIG SHOT?
SATURDAY.
NEED ANYTHING ELSE, BOSS?
BUT IF YOU PLAY THESE RUBES AGAINST ONE ANOTHER TO THE LETTER OF MY SCHEME, THE ONLY ONES LEFT STANDING WILL BE READY TO FALL IN LINE.
SPECIAL OF THE DAY
AUSTRIAN GOAT MILK LATTE
HOW ABOUT A STONEACCHINO?
NOW THAT THE SHOP IS IN WORKING ORDER, WE'LL NEED TO BE INSTALLING SOME NEW EQUIPMENT.
AND IT COULD USE A NEW NAME, TOO.
ONLY THEN WILL YOU BE READY TO PROCEED TO THE ROBOTNIK MANIFESTO: PHASE TWO!
THE END.


THE HEDGEHOG. HE'S THE KEY TO EVERYTHING. HE'S THE REASON I'M INVESTIGATING THE MOST DESOLATE CORNERS OF THE GALAXY. AND HE IS MY ONE CHANCE TO RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST.
ALWAYS BET ON RED
THEY SAY MY PEOPLE USED TO TRACK IN PACKS... BUT ALONE OR NOT, I KNOW I CAN FIND HIM.
MY HUNT MUST BE QUICK--AS FAST AS THEY SAY HE IS.
BUT NOTHING CAN ESCAPE ME ONCE I'VE DUG IN.
THOOOOM

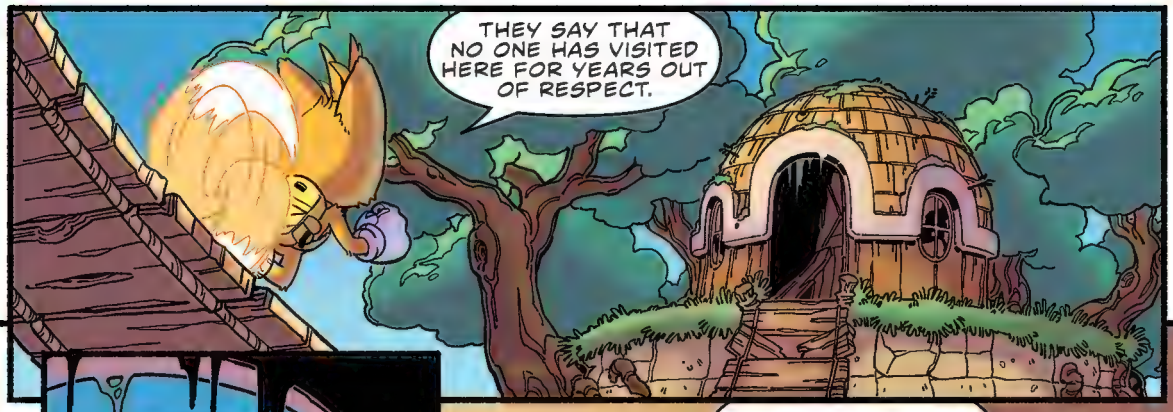
MAYBE NO ONE CAN SURVIVE HERE. NOT HUNTERS...
THUNK
...AND NOT THE SCAVANGER SCUM THAT GIVE MY KIND A BAD NAME.
WHERE DO YOU THINK... YOU'RE... TAKING ME?

WELCOME, PLAYERS, TO YOUR CASINO NIGHT--WHERE EVERYONE IS IN THE LUCKY ZONE!
AND WHAT A GAME WE HAVE FOR YOU TO WAGER ON THIS EVENING! THE MAIN EVENT IS ABOUT TO PROCEED IN THE ARENA!
OUR CHALLENGER IS A RARE BREED INDEED--NONE OTHER THAN THE LAST OF THE ECHIDNAS!
IF I'M THE CHALLENGER... THEN WHO'S THE CHAMPION?!
PLACE YOUR BETS!
SLIP-SLIP-SLIP!

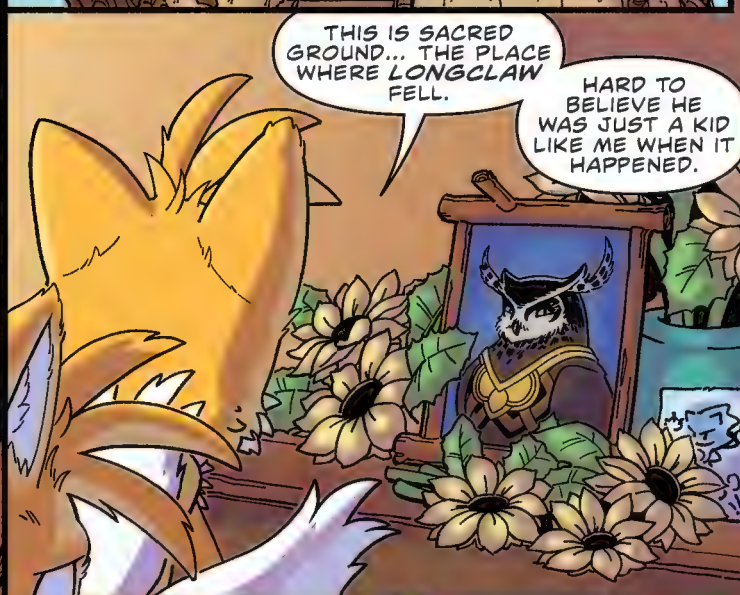
THOOM
GRRRR...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?!
THEN OPEN WIDE!

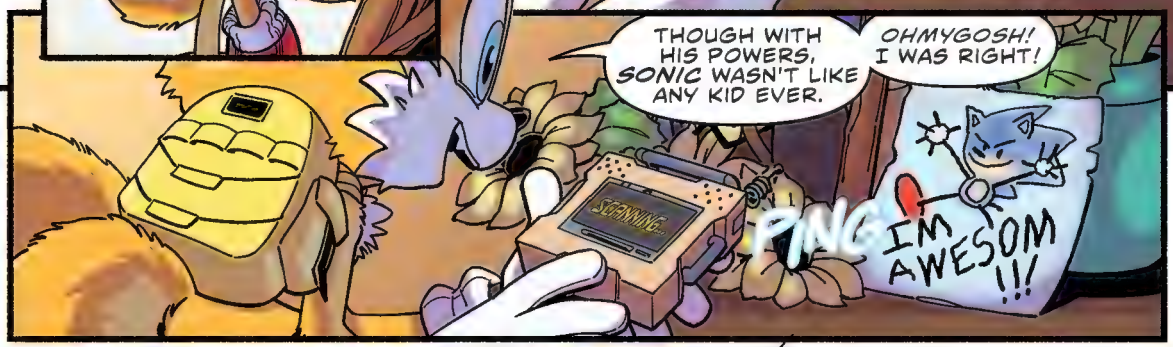
WHAM!
IT FELT GOOD TO BEST THE BEAST. IT ALWAYS DOES. BUT THE WIN I WANTED WAS STILL OUT OF MY REACH.
SCHWUMP
IF I'M REALLY GOING TO CAPTURE MY PREY, I MIGHT JUST HAVE TO BETRAY MY OWN INSTINCTS.
BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONE JOB I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DO ALONE.
YOU'RE SKILLED AT FINDING THINGS. COME WITH ME. I'M ON THE HUNT FOR SOMETHING. SOMETHING FAST.
THE END.

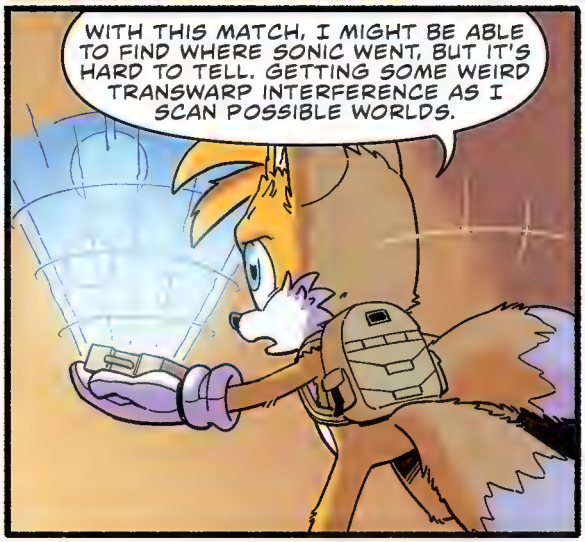
SCANNING...
YOU NEED TO FIND HIM, TAILS. NO MATTER WHAT.
TWO FOR THE ROAD

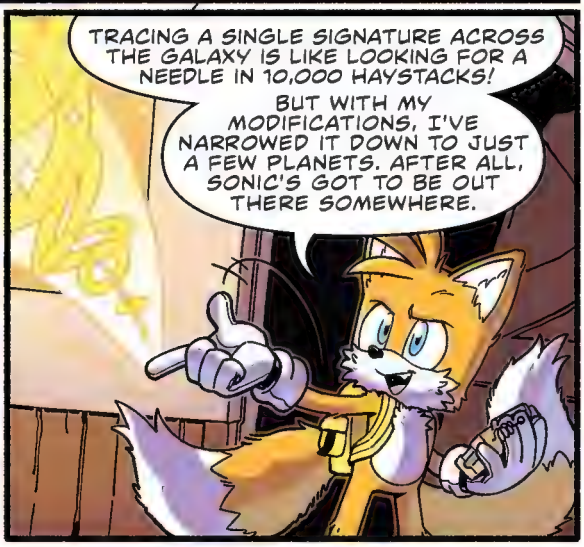

THEY SAY THAT NO ONE HAS VISITED HERE FOR YEARS OUT OF RESPECT.

THIS IS WHERE SONIC WAS RAISED. BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

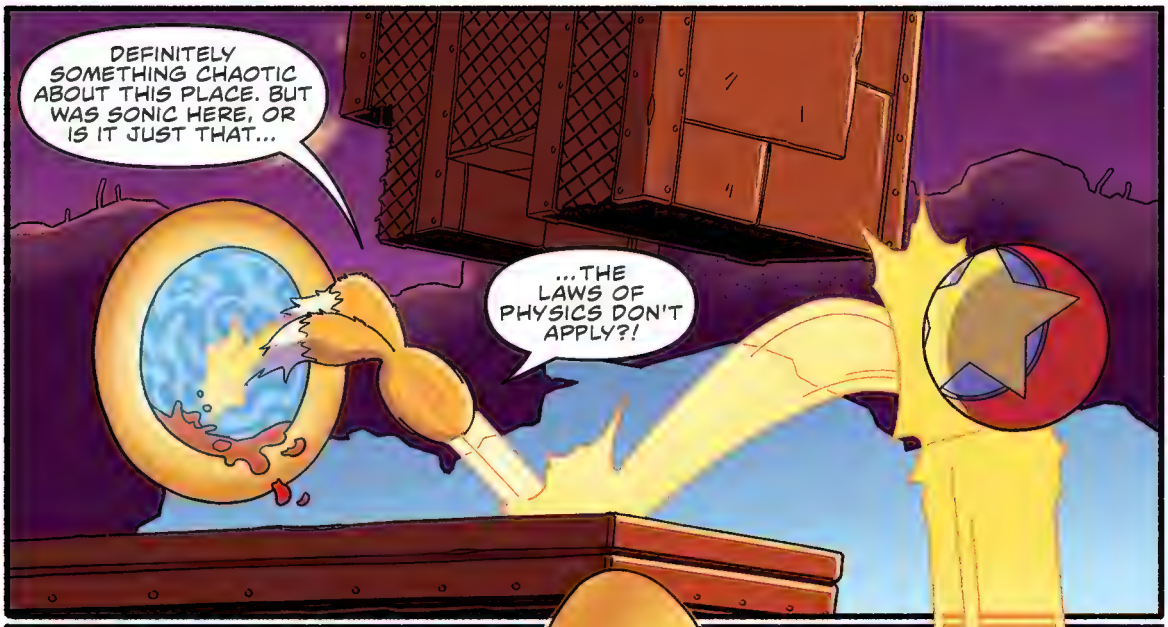

THIS IS SACRED GROUND... THE PLACE WHERE *LONGCLAW* FELL.
HARD TO BELIEVE HE WAS JUST A KID LIKE ME WHEN IT HAPPENED.

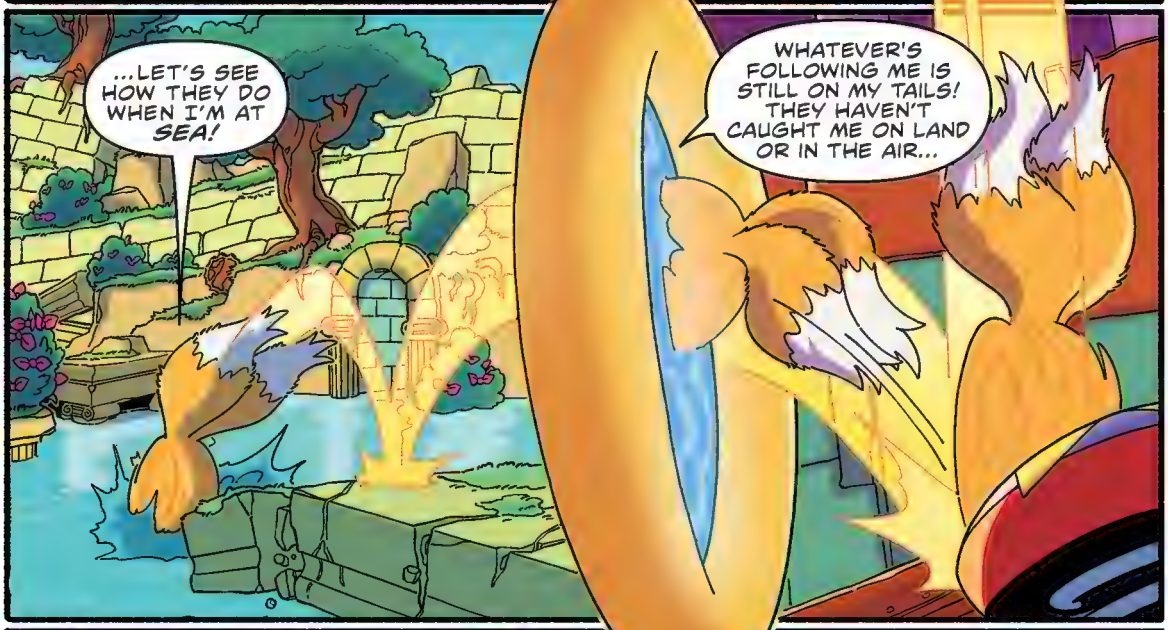

THOUGH WITH HIS POWERS, *SONIC* WASN'T LIKE ANY KID EVER.
OHMYGOSH! I WAS RIGHT!
SCANNING...
PING
IM AWESOM !!!

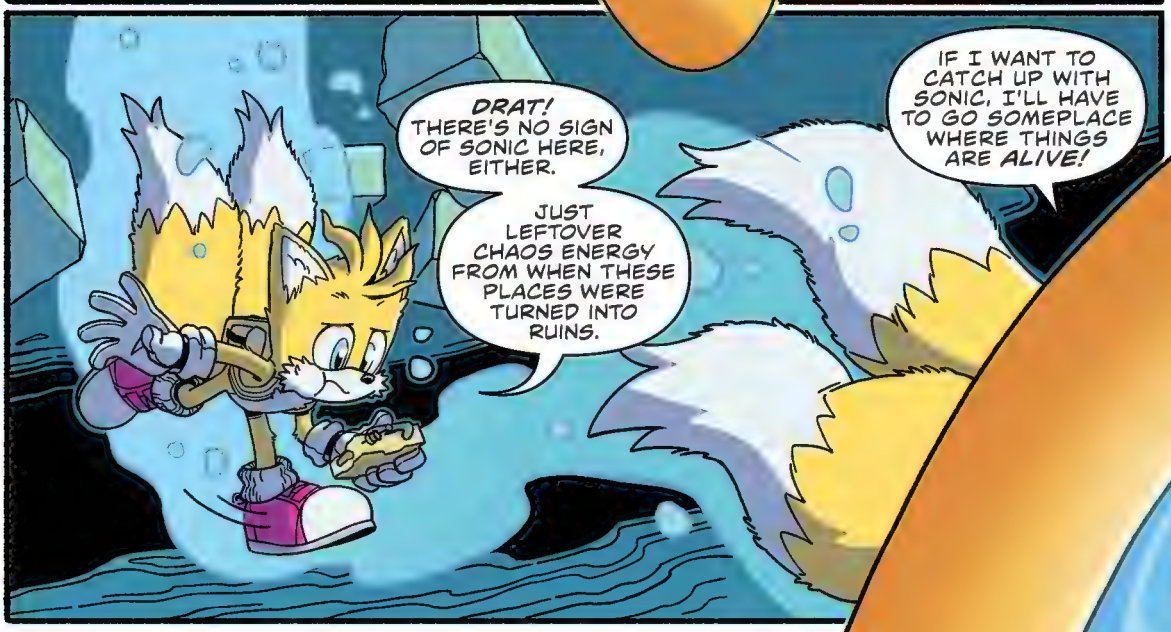

WITH THIS MATCH, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND WHERE SONIC WENT, BUT IT'S HARD TO TELL. GETTING SOME WEIRD TRANSWARP INTERFERENCE AS I SCAN POSSIBLE WORLDS.

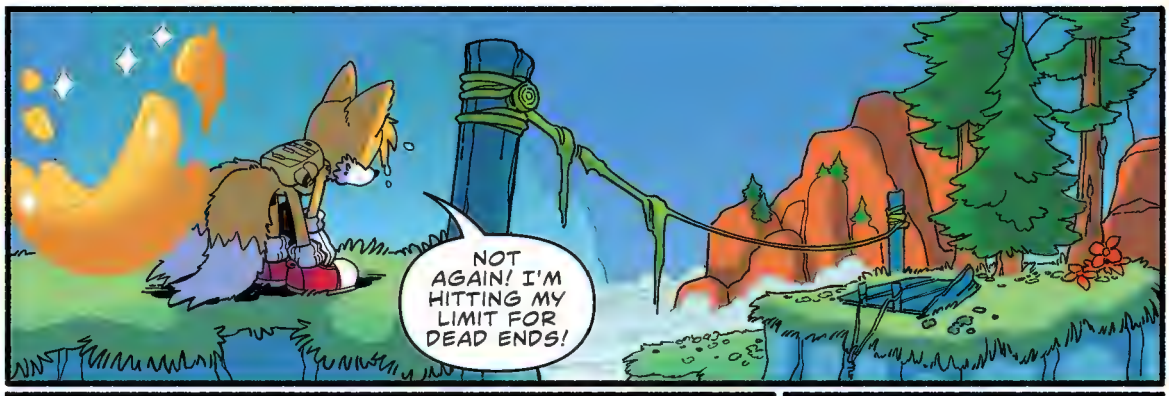

TRACING A SINGLE SIGNATURE ACROSS THE GALAXY IS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN 10,000 HAYSTACKS!
BUT WITH MY MODIFICATIONS, I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO JUST A FEW PLANETS. AFTER ALL, SONIC'S GOT TO BE OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.

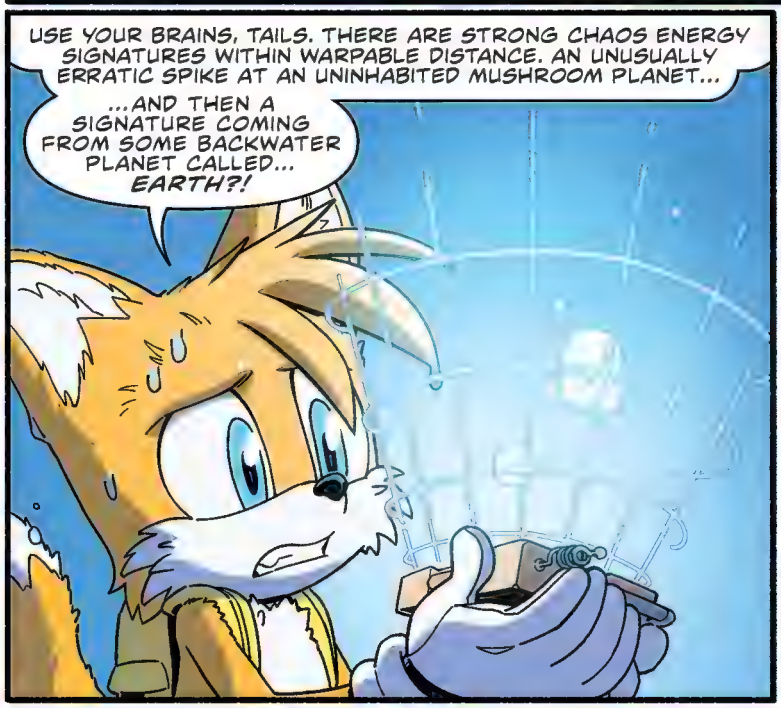
THIS IS A ZONE THAT MOST OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD AVOIDS, BUT THE ENERGY HERE IS SO STRONG.
WHO DARES INTRUDE UPON THE DOMAIN OF RAVA THE DESTROYER?!
WHOA! WRONG ENERGY SIGNATURE!
WHO NEEDS TO GO BY FOOT ANYWAY?
CURSE YOU!
THINK, TAILS, THINK!
WAIT! IT'S NOT THE ENERGY I'M TRACKING THAT'S CAUSING THIS INTERFERENCE... SOMEBODY'S FOLLOWING ME!
MAYBE THEY CAN PIGGYBACK ON MY PORTALS. BUT LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN TRACK ME AS WELL AS I CAN TRACK SONIC!


DEFINITELY SOMETHING CHAOTIC ABOUT THIS PLACE. BUT WAS SONIC HERE, OR IS IT JUST THAT...
...THE LAWS OF PHYSICS DON'T APPLY?!


...LET'S SEE HOW THEY DO WHEN I'M AT *SEA!*
WHATEVER'S FOLLOWING ME IS STILL ON MY TAILS! THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT ME ON LAND OR IN THE AIR...


DRAT! THERE'S NO SIGN OF SONIC HERE, EITHER.
JUST LEFTOVER CHAOS ENERGY FROM WHEN THESE PLACES WERE TURNED INTO RUINS.
IF I WANT TO CATCH UP WITH SONIC, I'LL HAVE TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE THINGS ARE *ALIVE!*


NOT AGAIN! I'M HITTING MY LIMIT FOR DEAD ENDS!

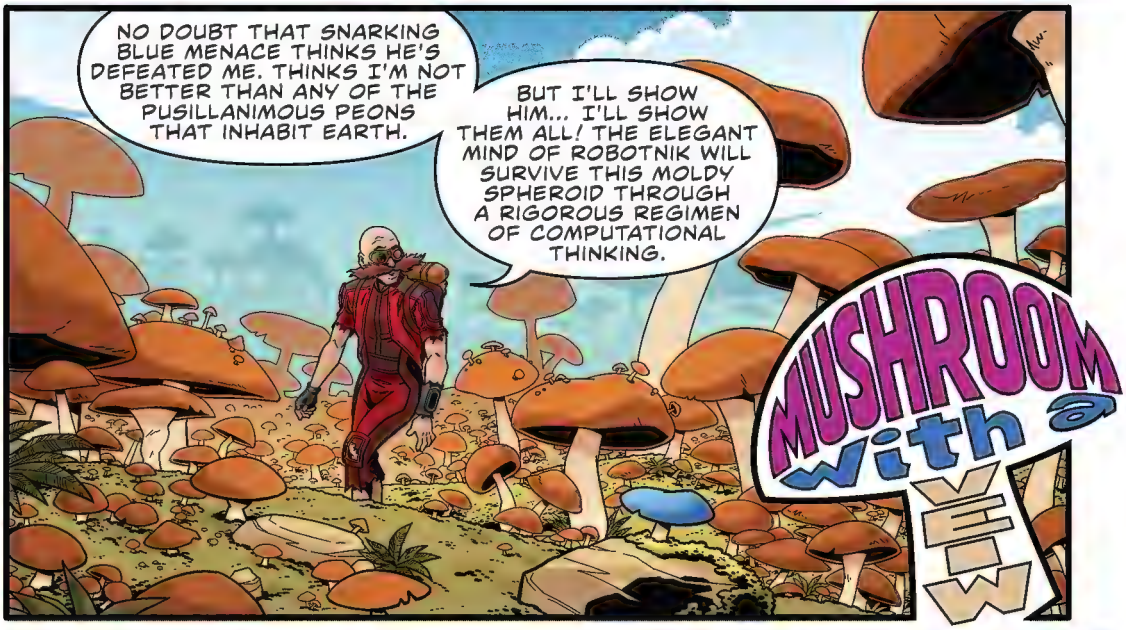

USE YOUR BRAINS, TAILS. THERE ARE STRONG CHAOS ENERGY SIGNATURES WITHIN WARPABLE DISTANCE. AN UNUSUALLY ERRATIC SPIKE AT AN UNINHABITED MUSHROOM PLANET...
...AND THEN A SIGNATURE COMING FROM SOME BACKWATER PLANET CALLED... *EARTH?!*

AND IF I DON'T FIND SONIC SOON, THIS *THING* IS GONNA FIND *ME* FIRST!
INTRUDER IMMINENT

HERE GOES NOTHING!

THIS IS ANOTHER DEAD END... WHATEVER YOU'VE BEEN TRACKING ISN'T *THE ENEMY*.
BUT I'VE GOT ONE MORE PLACE WHERE WE CAN FIND A LEAD...
THE END.

HERE'S THE SITCH. UNINHABITED PLANET. NO RESOURCES. NO SUPPLIES. NO APPARENT WAY HOME. A LESSER MAN WOULD DIE HERE. I'LL BE HOME BY CHRISTMAS.


NO DOUBT THAT SNARKING BLUE MENACE THINKS HE'S DEFEATED ME. THINKS I'M NOT BETTER THAN ANY OF THE PUSILLANIMOUS PEONS THAT INHABIT EARTH.
BUT I'LL SHOW HIM... I'LL SHOW THEM ALL! THE ELEGANT MIND OF ROBOTNIK WILL SURVIVE THIS MOLDY SPHEROID THROUGH A RIGOROUS REGIMEN OF COMPUTATIONAL THINKING.
MUSHROOM with a VIEW

OF COURSE, EVEN A PHYSIQUE AS MECHANICALLY FLAWLESS AS MY OWN STILL REQUIRES SUSTENANCE.

CHORMP CHORMP CHORMP

ZOUNDS! THAT'S NOT ONLY EDIBLE... IT'S ALMOST...
...GROOVY.

YES, A SMORGASBORD OF CHEMICALLY RICH FUNGI SHOULD SUSTAIN ME LONG ENOUGH TO REBUILD MY EGGPOD!
EUREKA! I THINK WE'VE FOUND THE MOTHER LODE!
FAR BE IT FOR ME TO WASTE SUCH AN ENTICING SPECIMEN. AFTER ALL, I AM THE ALPHA LIFE-FORM ON THIS--
CHOMP
HEY!
MIND THE FOOD CHAIN, YOU USELESS ASSEMBLAGE OF POLYPEPTIDES!

THIS COULD BE PROBLEMATIC.

NOT SO FAST, YOU MINDLESS MUNCHERS! ROBOTNIK REFUSES TO BE CONSUMED BY THE LIKES OF YOU. I AM THE HUNTER! YOU ARE THE PREY!

I AM THE BOAR! YOU ARE THE TRUFFLES!

I AM THE-- MURPHGLLLLE...

NNNO! I REFUSE TO RELENT! I DENY DELETION!
YOU THINK YOU INTIMIDATE ME?
SKREEEEE
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WAS A GOOD ATTEMPT.
BUT ENOUGH OF THIS. ACTIVATE JET FUEL DISPERSEMENT SYSTEM. FLAMETHROWER MODE.
IT'S ROASTED PORTABELLA ON THE MENU TONIGHT!
FWOOSH

HAHA HA!
YOU HEAR THAT, YOU NO-INTELLIGENCE EXCUSES FOR LIFE-FORMS?!
FIRST, I'LL DESTROY ANYTHING THAT GETS IN MY WAY ON THIS FUNKY LITTLE MUDBALL...
...THEN I'LL RETURN TO EARTH AND FINALLY GET! THAT! HEDGEHOG!
"TWO HUNDRED DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!"
THE END.

ART ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

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